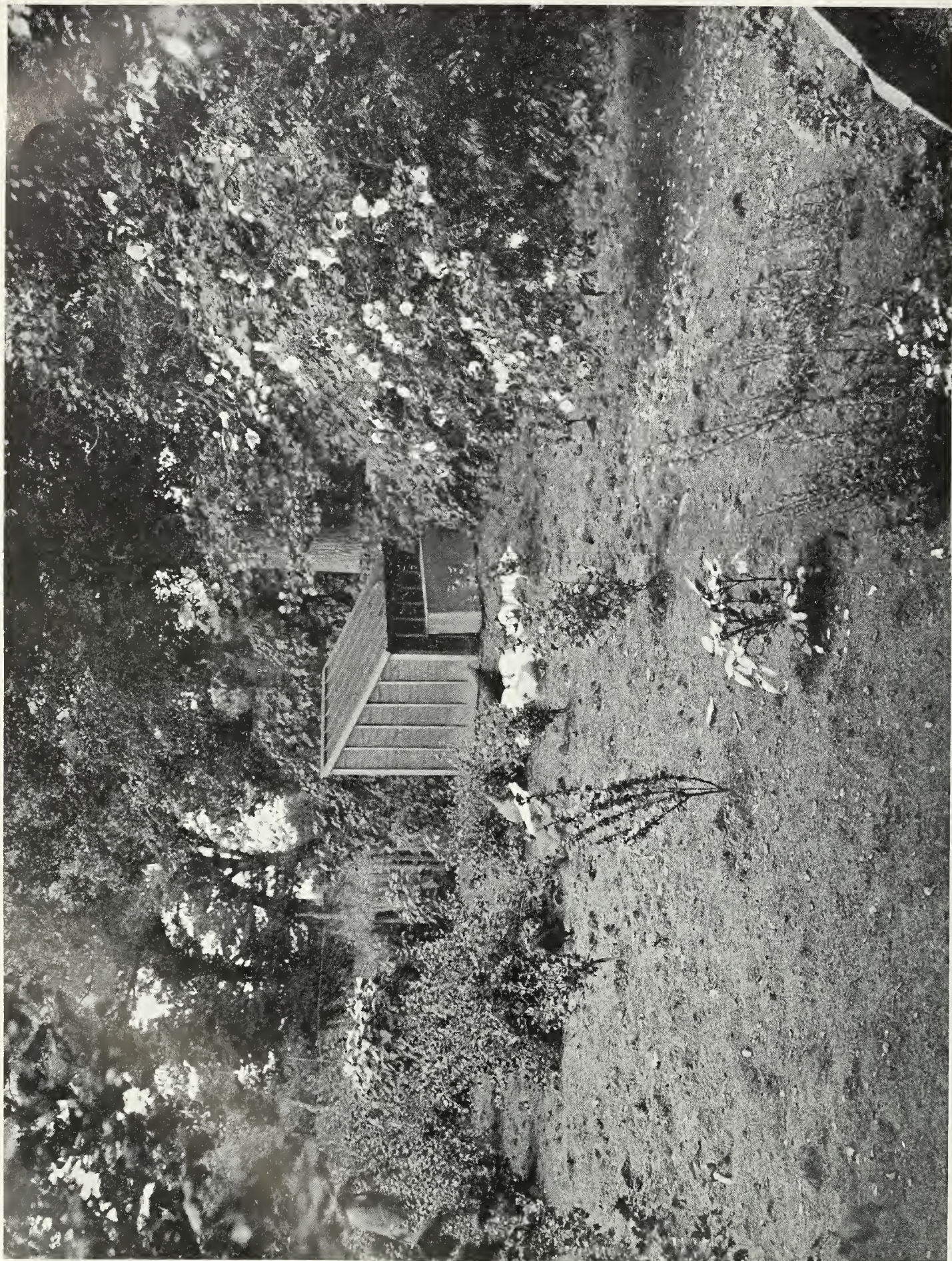


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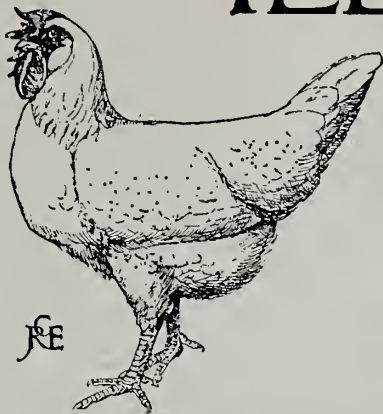




A "GOOSEBERRY" RUN ON MISS GALBRAITH'S FARM AT BAGSHOT. FORTY POUNDS OF GREEN AND TWENTY POUNDS OF RIPE GOOSEBERRIES WERE GATHERED IN THIS RUN LAST YEAR.



# THE ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD



VOL. 1.—No. 12.

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## DIARY OF THE MONTH.

### EDITORIAL NOTICES.

Telegrams: "CHICKENDOM." Telephone: 1999 P.O. CITY.

*The Editor will be glad to consider any MSS., photographs, or sketches submitted to him, but they should be accompanied by stamped addressed envelopes for return if unsuitable. In case of loss or injury he cannot hold himself responsible for MSS., photographs, or sketches, and publication in the ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD can alone be taken as evidence of acceptance. The name and address of the owner should be placed on the back of all pictures and MSS. All rights of reproduction and translation are reserved.*

*The Editor will be glad to hear from readers on any Poultry Topics, and all Queries addressed to the paper will be answered by experts in the several departments. The desire is to help those who are in difficulty regarding the management of their poultry, and accordingly no charge for answering such queries is made.*

*The Annual Subscription to the ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD at home and abroad is 8s., including postage, except to Canada, in which case it is 7s. Cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to Brown, Dobson, and Co., Limited.*

*The ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD is published on the first of every month. Should readers experience any difficulty in securing their copies promptly they are requested to communicate immediately with the Editor. The latest date for receiving advertisements is the 20th of the month preceding date of issue.*

*The utmost care is exercised to exclude all advertisements of a doubtful character. If any reader has substantial grounds for complaint against an advertiser he is requested to communicate at once with the Editor.*

### The "Record"—

This number of the ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD completes the first twelve months of its career, and the occasion seems suitable for a word of thanks to the friends who have encouraged and supported us in the past, and who, we trust, will continue to do so in the future. It is due to those friends that we should "report progress"; and we have all the more pleasure in doing so, in that the progress has exceeded even the sanguine hopes we expressed when the RECORD was launched last October. The character of our relations with the public at large may be briefly suggested when we say that our circulation, which started at no mean figure, has steadily increased month by month; while the relations with our advertisers may be gathered very easily from a glance at the last half-dozen issues of this journal, which inspection, moreover, will show that our advertisers, when once in, find the results so satisfactory that, like the secrets of the prison-house, they rarely, or never, come out. We should like to add more on this topic, but in deference to the remorseful feelings of those who have not yet advertised with us, we forbear.

### And Its Readers.

The character and wide scope of this journal have appealed to readers all over the world, and while the response from the British public has, naturally, given us the most gratification, we should like to say that our efforts to promote the interchange of information and ideas between our poultry-breeders and those of other countries have been excellently supported by the latter. In fact, the ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD, in the space of twelve months, has achieved, as



we hoped it would, an international as well as a national circulation, and we have every reason to expect that in time—it takes time abroad—we shall be read and quoted a hundred times more often than we are now. Meanwhile, readers of all nations and denominations who wish to preserve their RECORD—and we venture to think there are many such—are referred to the advertisement of our binding cases elsewhere, which are designed to provide them with a handy means of doing so. We would also add that a very complete index to our first volume will be ready shortly, and may be obtained gratis by anybody who sends a penny stamp to cover postage.

### What Pays Best in Ireland?

In the first number of the ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD attention was called to "What the Poultry Industry is Doing for Ireland," in which the enormous growth of exports of eggs and poultry was shown, as well as the fact that poultry produce now ranks second in value. A further point emphasised was the totally inadequate expenditure of public money upon encouragement of poultry-keeping as compared with other branches of agriculture. For each £100 value of horses exported from Ireland 19s. 1d. had been expended in various ways by the central and county authorities; for each £100 of dairy products 13s. 1¼d. had been spent; for each £100 of cattle, 11s. 8d.; but upon poultry, for each £100 of exports, only 7s. 7¼d. We said: "Such facts should encourage Irish poultry-keepers to demand a more adequate recognition of their industry. They desire to see every branch of agriculture encouraged to the fullest extent, but *pro rata* to its value to the national prosperity." We are glad, therefore, to see that these remarks have borne fruit. In the *Journal of the Irish Department of Agriculture* for July is reported a paper read by Prof. J. R. Campbell, Assistant Secretary, on "Store Cattle, or Butter, Bacon, and Eggs?" in which, after discussing the trend of things and the effect of foreign competition, he points out (1) that whilst in 1908 the value of beef imported into the United Kingdom was about £18,000,000, the value of butter, bacon, and eggs was £50,000,000, and (2) while from 1888 to 1908 the price of beef has fallen 20 per cent., the prices of the other products named have risen. Prof. Campbell concludes thus:

Our trade in exports is increasing, but there is some indication that the increase is steadier in butter, bacon, and eggs than in cattle, notwithstanding the much larger sums of money spent upon the improvement of store stock compared with that spent upon milch cows, pigs, and poultry. If the latter respond so freely to the efforts that have been made for their improvement, would it not be well to

consider whether still more money might advantageously be spent on them, even should it be taken from the funds now given to the store stock trade?

To which we should say—Horses also ought to give up half at least to the hens.

### Value of Breeding Stock.

Actual cost of production has something to do with sale price, yet not so much as is generally supposed. What is of greater importance is the value of the product whatever it may be, whether hen or halter, when sold, that in its turn being in many cases dependent upon demand. The returns in relation to the first cost must, however, determine whether production will be continued, for everyone must receive the due rewards for his labour. We are led to these observations by remarks made in the columns of the *Australian Hen*—namely, that "it does not pay to raise birds to a reproducing age and sell them at less than five shillings." In view of the fact that many people, among whom are those who would think nothing of giving £50 for a good cow, imagine that they should purchase hens at little more than killing price, it is well to consider the question. Of course, cost of production varies considerably in accordance with breed of fowls, cost of original stock, numbers bred, &c., and we can only generalise. An experiment at Theale in 1904 gave the actual cost of White Wyandotte pullets, nineteen weeks old, as 1s. 7½d. each. If we take six months as a fair average for pullets, that will bring the prime cost to about 2s. 3d. each, which figure does not include special value of breeding stock, interest on capital invested, rent and general expenses, and labour. In some cases these would be much less than in others. Even upon general farms they can hardly run to less than 1s. 3d. per bird, and upon poultry farms to 2s. 3d. per bird. If that is so, to sell at 5s. would only leave a profit of 6d. in the last-named case, and every week after six months means an increase to the cost. Special qualities will, or should, enhance the value. But enough has been said to show that less than 7s. 6d. does not leave a living profit to the breeder for ordinary stock. It is better to kill at three months for the table poultry market.

### Free Poultry Exhibitions.

A note in our Foreign Section calls special attention to the mission of poultry shows and their educational value, based on the advocacy of an American writer that, instead of making a charge for admission, shows should be free. That such an arrangement would popularise these gatherings cannot be questioned. Instead of the paucity of visitors which is too frequently in evidence, the avenues would be crowded, and a great amount of good would result, both to



those who exhibit and those who would attend. It is entirely, however, a question of money. Many poultry shows have great difficulty in making ends meet, even with gate-money. In the case of the large exhibitions such an arrangement is frankly impossible, but that should not be so in the case of local shows where the expenses are small, and it is certainly worth a trial if subscriptions or grants could be secured to meet the unavoidable charges in connection with a display of this kind. For a show of three hundred birds, with voluntary labour, the total cost of tent, pens, and printing should not exceed £25, apart from prize-money, in respect to which it might fairly be asked that entry-fees should be enough to cover the prizes offered and the judge's fee. Exhibitors would obtain a big advertisement by display of their birds to a wider constituency, and recoup themselves in that way. Cannot the Utility Poultry Club or the Northern Utility Poultry Society test the scheme? The ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD offers £5 towards the expenses of the first show of not less than 200 entries on these lines.

#### A Russian Example.

M. Nicholas Krukoff, Director of Agriculture to the Russian Government, takes a keen interest in the poultry industry, and since his appointment to that responsible position has done much for its encouragement. We have, therefore, much pleasure in giving his photograph in "Who's Who" this month. A year ago a travelling scholarship was given to Miss Margaret Friede, of Pliussa, extending over twelve months, the first five of which were spent on the College Poultry Farm, Theale, during which she took the Reading Course Certificate, holding a very high place in the examination held last December. Afterwards Miss Friede proceeded to America, where she has spent a very successful time, and has just returned to Europe. We had the pleasure of seeing this lady as she passed through London, and she reports having been received most warmly and hospitably by all with whom she came in contact, and she brings back very happy memories of the many kindnesses extended to her. But that is the American way. Miss Friede has returned to Russia, enriched in knowledge and experience by her sojourn in England and America, which will, we are sure, be used for the improvement of poultry-keeping in her native land. The Russian authorities are to be commended on their wise enterprise.

#### The Influence of Strain.

In view of the doubts which have been cast upon heredity in egg-production, more especially

by the Maine Bulletins, we commend a careful study of the records given by our esteemed Danish correspondent Mr. W. A. Kock in his article published this month, specially with regard to the records of Herr Simonsen's Brown Leghorns. It will be seen that of the four parent stock birds No. 4 laid 221 eggs in her first year, and 789 in five years; No. 32 laid 215 eggs in her first year, and 766 in five years; No. 36 laid 214 eggs in her first year, and 784 in five years; and No. 12 laid 214 eggs in her first year, and 570 in four years. The yearly decline in numbers is, with one exception, general, but not nearly so great as might have been expected. For two of these to produce 110 and 128 eggs respectively is a remarkable performance, showing that, whether by breeding or other causes, these birds were wonderful layers. A very striking point, however, is that of the progeny of these four birds, though the average on the whole is very good indeed, only three pullets thus bred reached the 200-egg standard, though several came very little below it. On the other hand, two pullets fell to 100 or less.

#### The Late E. W. Richardson.

The regrettable death, on July 29 last, of Mr. E. W. Richardson removed a well-known and much-appreciated personality from our midst. The sad event was, however, not wholly unexpected; it was known for some time previously that he was in delicate health, and when, last March, he was compelled by his condition to hand over the honorary secretaryship of the Utility Poultry Club to Mr. Lamaison, those acquainted with the facts of the case feared that the end would not be long delayed. Mr. Richardson studied poultry-keeping at the University College, Reading, where he obtained the certificate, and was subsequently Principal at the Farm School of the Bedfordshire County Council at Ridgmount and Lecturer at the Cheshire County Council's College of Agriculture at Holmes Chapel. It was, however, in connection with the Utility Poultry Club, of which he was elected honorary secretary in 1902, that he achieved his greatest success. He was largely instrumental in raising the membership of the club from 500 to 1,400, its present figure. In 1907 he assumed the management of the Twelve Months' Laying Competition—a task which, necessitating the hardest and most incessant work, doubtless aggravated an old internal trouble from which he suffered. The two grants by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries of £35 towards the expenses of the competition are witness to his successful handling of the undertaking. From 1906 onwards Mr. Richardson lived on his farm at Rayne, near Braintree, and some idea of his

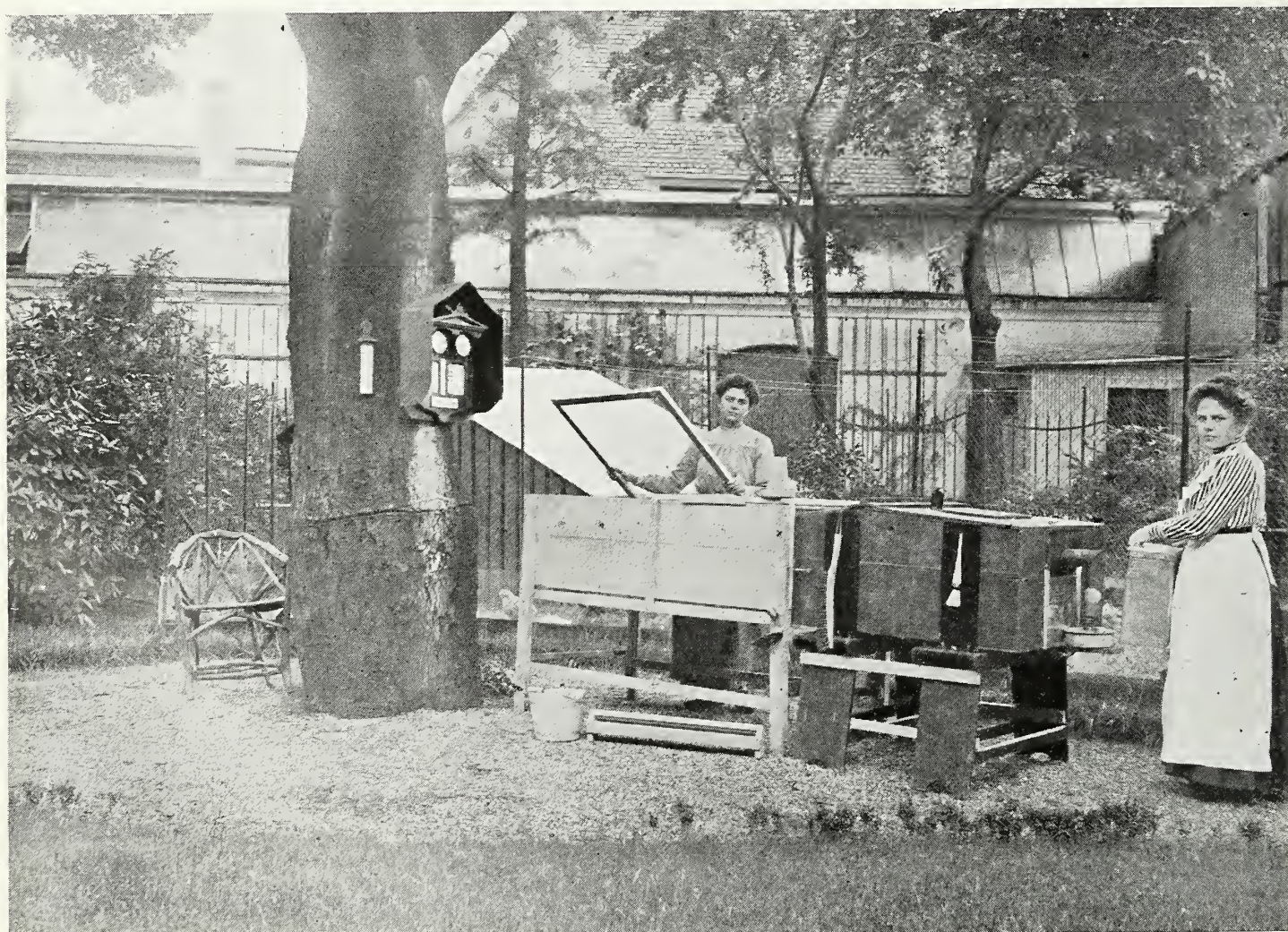


ability as a utility poultry-keeper may be gathered from the fact that in the Six Months' Competition at Street, ending in last March, his pen of Buff Plymouth Rocks came out top among an entry of 100 pens.

#### Poultry Literature.

"Of the making of books there is no end" and "that mine adversary had written a book" have often been quoted. But it is certain that more books have been published within the last half-century than in all the ages of the world's history. That fact is true in every branch of human knowledge, and the poultry industry is responsible for a full share. The number of works dealing with this subject increases year by year, and it is a tribute to the widespread interest in poultry that so many are published in almost every civilised country, some of which are more than mere handbooks of passing value, although many are largely repetitions of what has often been stated before. They, however, help in

the dissemination of knowledge, and have a considerable influence, in view of which they deserve a hearty welcome. It is of interest to note that the bulk of the books issued in the fifth to the eighth decades of the nineteenth century were primarily concerned with fancy poultry breeding, but during the last thirty years the practical side of the pursuit has commanded the major attention. So far as we are able to tell, something like 500 distinct books of all grades on poultry have appeared. With a view, therefore, to securing as complete a list as possible, we have invited Mr. Edward Brown, F.L.S., whose library of poultry literature numbers 350 volumes, pamphlets, &c., and whilst by no means complete, is probably one of the most extensive in existence, to prepare a bibliography of poultry literature, the first instalment of which appears in this issue, and will continue until completed. We ask readers to respond heartily to the request for help in making this list correct and comprehensive.



OUTDOOR BROODERS ON A GERMAN POULTRY-FARM.



## THE POULTRY-FARMING LIFE.

By WILFRID H. G. EWART.

THE great working-classes of England, the classes that toil for their living in the towns and get it by means of pen or pickaxe, brain or hand, are inclined, it seems to me, to look at farming and the business of country life from a wrong point of view. The outlook of an office-desk embracing an office-stool, four office-walls, an office-window, and a chimney-pot in the near distance is not a broad outlook; nor is it at all calculated to encourage a broad view of any other occupation in any other phase of life. A person who sits at a desk and works with a pen is very probably the son (or daughter) of a father who has done likewise, is very probably the representative of generations of "persons" who have done likewise. And such an individual seldom looks at country occupations as they should be looked at.

To this may be attributed a great number of the mistakes that have been made in farming, and in poultry-farming more particularly. People have constantly come out to the country life with an atmosphere of smoke and "office" still around them, and with the one idea in their heads that farming (or poultry-farming) is a pursuit. Really it is extraordinary that anyone can be stupid enough to conceive such an idea; but that such an idea has often been conceived is evidenced by the failures of which we have all heard. The very first thing that should be grasped when a man leaves a town with the intention of making a living from the land is that farming is no pursuit, no paying hobby, but that it is a profession, and an exacting one. I am writing now of poultry-farming—a serious occupation meriting the attention of all men. Numberless deluded youths—aye, and middle-aged men—some of them broken down in health or at all events delicate, have from time to time precipitated themselves into the "pursuit" above-named for the benefit of the outdoor life and with a view to the ha'pence (?) easily earned. They have found, I think, that the poultry-farming life is from one point of view just what they expected—a quiet, free, open-air existence. And they have found (from another point of view) that the poultry-farming life is just what they had not expected—it is no sinecure.

What has the poultry-farming life to offer? Well, there is no doubt it holds out to a man a prospect of an outdoor existence, of health in all probability, of interesting work among interesting creatures, of perfect freedom of action, and besides these a prospect of a bare living or a very modest competence. The business side of the matter does not come within the scope of this article. Rather is it those other, and better, inducements (could we but afford to regard them only!) that must form my subject-matter.

It is my opinion that only town dwellers fully realise the value of health and the part it plays in a man's life. Country people in the habitual enjoyment of it almost forget that there is such a thing. Undoubtedly this is the greatest benefit of a life on the land, and as such it is a genuine inducement to people—there are very many of them—whose health is broken, and who clutch at recuperation as a drowning man grasps at a straw. Nobody of human instinct wishes to deny this to them, but at the same time they must be forewarned that poultry-farming is not an invalid's business nor is it an invalid's work.

Now, one of the greatest assets toward success in the profession under notice has been found to be personal labour. The man who does all, or a great part of, his own work is the man who makes of poultry-farming a financial success. It stands to reason that he saves considerably in wages in the first place, and in the second he does the work thoroughly, and knows that it has been done thoroughly. Take the weekly cleaning, for instance—work that must be done regularly, and that at the present time is long, hard, and tedious. From experience I have learnt to dread cleaning-day and its long hours of heat, perspiration, dust, and general discomfort; when those hours are over I am tired as only hard work can make a man tired. That would not suit an invalid or even a semi-invalid—it would knock him up within a month.

Of course there is a good number of light, easy jobs to be done in connection with poultry-keeping on a large scale, but these keep you on your legs and make the poultry-farming life a busy, if not a hard, one. It is all very well for a



strong, healthy man who, in the employment of his energies, is merely keeping himself fit ; in the case of a man of weak constitution there is a certain strain which will eventually tell. That is a side of the matter that must be mentioned in the public and poultry Press to prevent ignorant people going wrong and teaching others how to go wrong. There are further sides which show up the poultry-farming life in different lights. A person of average intelligence, for instance, finds at the bottom of fowl-culture something very real and gripping, the name of which is not so much "interest" as "fascination." He takes it up first in a dispassionate, commercial way, far from trustful, perhaps, not over-keen ; after a time the life and the subjects of his work—I suppose it is these—grow upon him, strike him in an entirely different way, and then he is satisfied. This same fascination is the making and the mainstay and the pitfall of poultry-farming as an industry. The making and the mainstay it is because nobody would ever have cultivated poultry intensively without some such extraordinary incentive, and nobody would have continued to do so when it was found that the pecuniary advantages were not great—without this fascination. The pitfall is very obvious to most of us—but that is an old story.

This fascination is no myth. I am fairly practical ; I know others who are most practical, and we have agreed that a hen mania has collared each, and all, of us. The poultry-farming life is in practice no disappointment, it is not dull, and it is not monotonous. There is a yearly round, but (practically speaking) no daily round ; that is to say, the great works and the small works go on year after year more or less unvaryingly ; but day by day they are mixed up, interchanged, never monotonously regular. In poultry-farming, moreover, there is some field for ambition, not the ambition born of local rivalry, but a better (because less jealous) kind and a broader kind. In the show-pen you participate in competition of such an open and strenuous character, the fortunes of which are so important to yourself, and the extent of which is so considerable, that you are never left without an aim, and therefore you always have an ambition. A "fancy" poultry-farmer's greatest ambition is, I suppose, to win at the Dairy, the Crystal Palace, or a club show in any year, and, even though the ultimate object may be a pecuniary one, still,

there is always the great idea and the great strivings after its realisation.

Of course in some instances the success or failure of the poultry-farming life (apart from the monetary side of it) is simply a matter of individual temperament. I have from time to time met a good many people serving an apprenticeship or about to launch into the poultry business, and while some have been possessed of unquestionable ability and capability to succeed, others appeared to me from the first to be virtual failures. These latter had not the temperament, the stability, the enthusiasm, and it is a very good thing for them that they never did get launched. In my opinion the most important factor in the poultry-farmer's "make-up" is, first, interest in his birds, and secondly interest in his surroundings. To be able to appreciate the legion beauties of a very wonderful world is a quality (if you can call it that) which is not estimated by most of us at its true worth and which consequently is not encouraged as it should be. If you are living among birds, working among birds, and enjoying daily the blessings of an outdoor life, then, it seems to me, the more you appreciate the living things you handle and the environment of your own existence, so much the more interesting, easy, and happy does that existence become. I am a very amateur naturalist, and if I were not a very amateur naturalist I doubt if I should be a poultry-farmer. From being a naturalist I have become a poultry-farmer, and from being a poultry-farmer I have become more than ever a naturalist. That is a little personal ; but still from my own absolute experience I know of what great value this is—a real love of Nature.

It is all a part of the temperament capable of enjoying the country and the country's things. It is all a part of the poultry-farming life—that and a quiet mind and an ability to look at your business seriously. In these hard, prosaic, striving times you must contemplate your work and business (poultry-farming or anything else) with always serious eyes. Neglect it a little, put it away a little, and (even if you are very young) the crowd will have overtaken you, brushed you aside, pushed ahead of you, left you standing still. Success in this world is a mighty thing—indeed, there is only one thing mightier. And that is what some great, successful men have never known—how to be happy.



## THE PEREGRINATIONS OF THE DOMESTIC FOWL.

By EDWARD BROWN, F.L.S.

IN spite of the fact that the *gallus ferrugineus*, or Jungle Fowl, is not a migratory bird in the ordinary sense, its wanderings have covered the entire globe. Distribution is universal. From the original *habitat* in India it has found its way to all points of the compass, over land and sea, from Arctic Zone to the southern No Man's Land, and is met with to-day in almost every country, civilised or barbarian. But it has been a forced transmigration, following the great streams of human life. Wars, expeditions, colonisation, as well as commerce have led to its distribution. The trend of changes, national and racial, which have altered the face of the globe, has influenced the movement of the domestic fowl from one part of the earth to another. In former days such movements were slow, but as inter-communication has advanced, instead of the march step by step, passing from one district or country to another, we bridge in five or six weeks distances which would have taken months or years to cover. Modern methods, however, do not allow of the steady and uniform wave which possibly marked the earlier history of the fowl's wanderings.

When the fowl was first domesticated in India has not been determined, probably never will be. It would appear, however, that this must have taken place far back in the dim ages. In a Chinese encyclopædia, compiled one thousand four hundred years before our present era commenced, the fowl is referred to, which would be about the time of Moses; but whether this refers to the domestic fowl or another species of bird is uncertain, as is the reference in the Book of Kings. It would seem to be the case that we may safely accept the statement that the fowl was domesticated at least 1000 B.C., for the sport of cock-fighting in India is referred to in the "Codes" of Mann, written about that date. In fact, any reference to that sport fixes the fact of domestication beyond question, and we may fairly surmise that reference in such literature or tablets as are found in Egypt is proof that whatever was mentioned in an ordinary manner was general. Such is the case so far as concerns the reference to "the cock crew" in the New Testament, when Peter denied Christ. Unless the Jews were familiar with the sound they would probably have been scared by so unearthly a noise at the break of day. With what is here stated we must remain content. But it may be accepted that *pari passu* with the domestication of the goose in Egypt before or about the days of Joseph, in India, and possibly in China, the fowl was

entering into the service of man, but for a totally different purpose to some extent. I have not come across any reference which would show that cock-fighting was a Chinese sport, though probably there are many records unknown to us, but the evidence seems to be that in India the pastime largely promoted the breeding, even if it did not lead in the first place to domestication, and that thence it extended to the countries of South-Eastern Asia as far as the Philippines.

If the reference before-mentioned, found in a Chinese encyclopædia, applied to the fowl, then the first migration must have been eastward, and eight hundred years prior to the westward one. I have not studied Asiatic literature to the extent of enabling me to express any opinion as to how the eastward stream found its way, whether through what we call Indo-China, or by the more southerly countries, or what were the circumstances leading thereto. There is just a possibility that the wild species was found in parts of China, which is by no means improbable, and that a distinct domestication took place from that in India. It may be that we shall find much in China when better known to solve the difficulties presenting themselves. By no means improbable is it that the priests, passing as they did from one country to another, were the means of distributing the fowl over wide areas. And, as mentioned by Millman in his "History of the Jews," there was a migration of Jews to China several centuries before Christ. I have a notion that the reason why the goose was made a sacred bird in Egypt was that the priests might secure a plentiful supply for their own tables, and it is quite within the bounds of reason that the Buddhist Priests, passing from India to China, took fowls with them for the sake of their eggs and flesh. Unless, therefore, a separate domestication took place in Eastern Asia, we may accept it as a fact that the Chinese knew the fowl a thousand years before it had reached Europe. What was the probable trend from China is shown below.

The great Indian peninsula has been the envy and the fascination of peoples in all ages. Frequently it was invaded. When Cyrus, the King of Persia, founded the Medo-Persian Empire, India was included in his conquests. It would appear that the Persians thus first became acquainted with the domestic fowl, not from its food but its sportive value. That invasion took place in 537 B.C. In all ages military men have been devotees of cock-fighting, and it is easy to understand how these Persian warriors were



attracted by the novel pastime, taking back to their own land specimens of birds from which they could obtain so much pleasure. Our own experience has shown how very quickly large numbers of fowls can be bred, and we are justified in assuming that within a few years they would be widely distributed in the new country to which they were thus introduced. Hehn, in his "Wanderings of Plants and Animals," says :

Wherever a Persian settled he took as much care to procure a cock as to pray and wash before and during sunrise. As far as the limits of the Persian dominion reached, there, no doubt, the tame and useful, easily transported, and at the same time so peculiar creature found a welcome even in the homes of non-believers.

Once introduced into Persia, dissemination over the neighbouring countries of Western Asia would naturally follow, more especially over those areas covered by Persian influence. Darwin mentions that the fowl figures on some of the Babylonian cylinders. But the records with regard to that period are very hazy and indistinct, much more indefinite than when Europe was reached. It would appear, however, for reasons given later, that one country to which the fowl wandered was Phœnicia, which little state was the means of distributing the fowl over a wide area.

Two hundred years after their own conquest of India it became the turn of the Persians to be invaded, and to find the Nemesis of fate by falling to the prowess of Alexander the Great, who in his ambition for world-wide domain made the Eastern Empire subject to Greek rule. So far as can be told, it was this event which brought the fowl to Europe, and in Greece it was known as the Persian Bird. Whether the Greeks had already heard of or seen specimens of game-cocks, and were so enamoured of the sport that they sent their armies to conquer the fortunate or unfortunate possessors, we cannot tell. But wars have been waged and the destiny of nations decided for more trivial reasons. Want of space does not permit me to deal fully with the extent to which cock-fighting and poultry-breeding attained in ancient Greece. The literature of that period is full of references. Aristotle, who wrote about 350 B.C., mentions the fowl familiarly, which would give credence to the suggestion that it was commonly known prior to the Alexandrian conquest of Persia. Into the superstition, the tradition, the ceremonials, and the sport of the Grecians it entered, as proved by the references to be met with in classical writings :

In the "Eumenides" of Æschylus, Athena warns the Athenians against civil war as resembling the combats of cocks. Pinder compares the inglorious victories of civil war to the victories of a barndoor fowl. Themistocles is said to have raised the courage of his army by reminding them how two

fighting cocks risk their lives, not for the hearth and its penates, but for fame alone. (Hehn.)

That cock-fighting was a popular sport in Greece is unquestionable, for the same writer says :

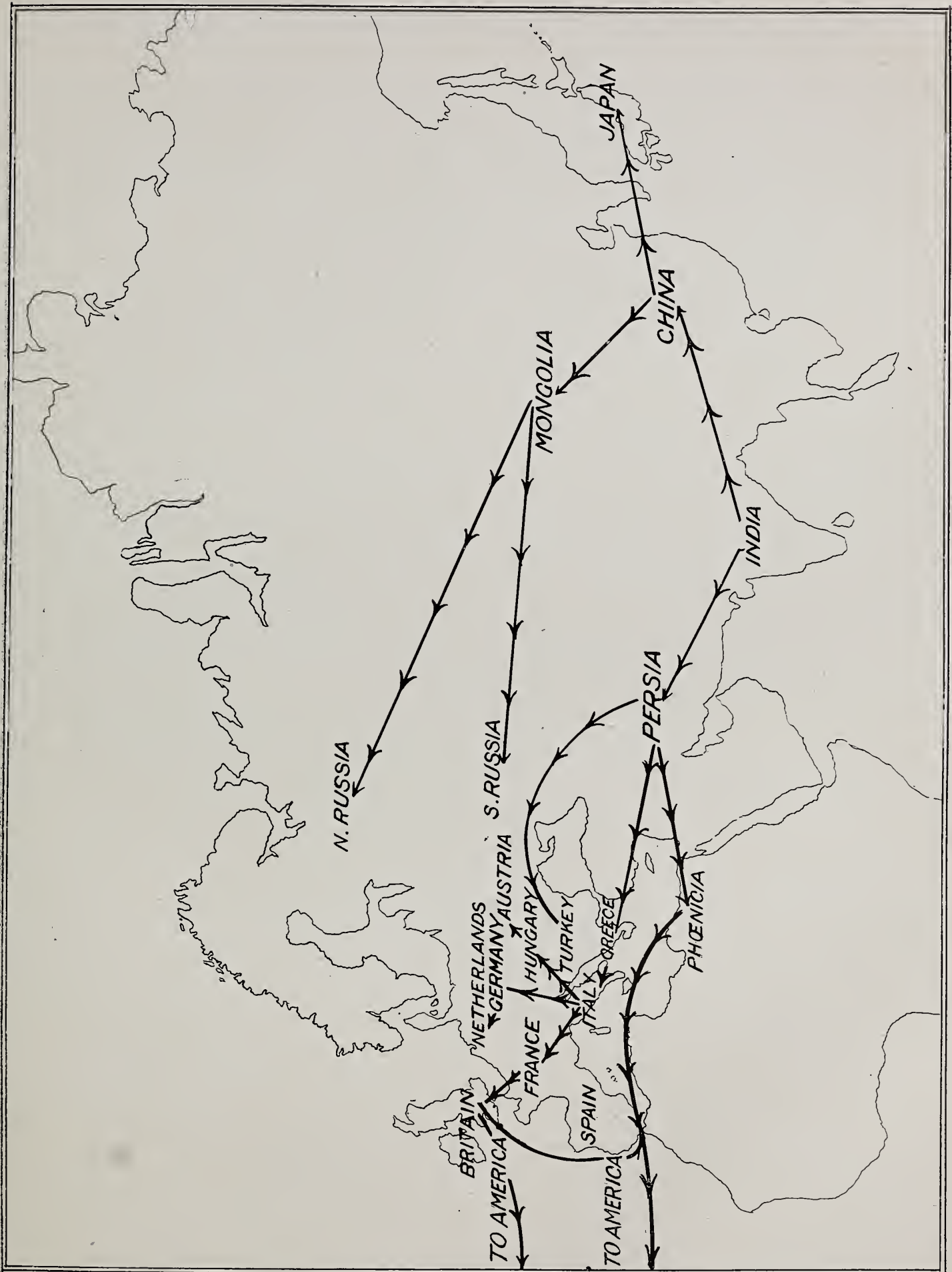
Large and improved varieties of the Asiatic fowl, especially of fighting-cocks, were procured from various places in Greece famous for particular breeds and races. In earlier times the Isle of Delos had been thus celebrated, and . . . the fowls of Tanagra, Rhodes, and Chalcis stood in the highest repute for strength and beauty.

From Greece the passage to Italy was comparatively easy, both by reason of short distance and inter-communication by sea. Records do not appear to state when that took place. Here a great change resulted. The fighting instincts of the cock did not appeal to the luxurious Roman, but its food value served to give him varied and rich dishes for which his soul longed. Thus economic poultry-keeping, as distinct from sport, evidently had its origin in Italy. The writings of Cato and Columella, of Plato and Varro, deal with this aspect of the question, telling of the breeds into which fowls have been divided, the methods of breeding, feeding, and fattening.

That was the period of Roman dominion, when the Empire sent its legions east and west and north, when the great Consuls ruled peoples as far apart as Britain and Palestine. Italy, therefore, had much to do with the wanderings—compulsory wanderings—of the fowl over Western and West Central Europe. Inter-communication was frequent across the Gulf of Lyons to Spain, along the northern shores of the Great Sea into Gaul, and thence to Britain, across the Alps, west and east, into Germany and what we now term Austria-Hungary, thus showing how domesticated animals follow those national developments which have made history and changed the face of the world. There are many points in this connection worthy of study, but I cannot deal with them now. It may be stated, however, that we owe much to Italy both for dissemination of the fowl and evolution of new races.

We have already seen that the fowl was known in Phœnicia long before the commencement of the present era. That country was in the north-east corner of the Mediterranean Sea. The Phœnicians were a maritime people, sending their ships far and wide—even to Cornwall for tin-ore. To this fact we may attribute the fowl reaching countries long before the Romans came there. Barbarians are pleased with novelties, and will exchange for these their own products of much greater value. Glass beads of small worth have often purchased gold in Africa and America. So may the fowl have been a form of money. When Cæsar invaded Britain he found cock-fighting a popular sport among the natives, who had





[Copyright.]

"THE PEREGRINATIONS" OF THE DOMESTIC FOWL.



evidently obtained the birds and learnt their use from the Phœnician sailors. In this way they won the hearts of, and gained their object with, the ancient Britons, who regarded fighting as the great glory of life. Perhaps these old mariners introduced the fowl into North-Western Africa and Spain. In the last-named country the view is held that the black fowls, of which the Minorca is representative, found so largely throughout the Peninsula, were brought by the Moors when they came and conquered. Whether that is so or not I am unable to say. The records appear to be lost, if they ever existed, and we can only judge by probabilities and inferences.

More difficult is it to discover what took place in the case of fowls which had gone eastward, for at present, so far as I am aware, there are no records available to help us. Perhaps some day Chinese literature may reveal what is unknown to us. It is, therefore, to a large extent surmise and speculation. When, a few years ago, I visited Russia, it was to find races of fowls differing as much from the ordinary Western European fowls as do the Asiatic breeds, such as the Malay and the Langshan, from the Italian or Leghorn, varying not merely in size of body, but also in wings and structure of skeleton. This led me to follow out the subject, in view of which it is stated by Hehn :

There is no direct historical testimony as to the manner in which domestic fowls were introduced into Central and Southern (South-Eastern ?) Europe. They may have come straight from Asia to the kindred nations of the South Russian steppes and the eastern slopes of the Carpathian Mountains, whose religion agreed with that of the other Iranian races, and some of whom already practised agriculture in the time of Herodotus.

Some attention is given to this subject in my work "Races of Domestic Poultry," and in the preface to that book it is stated :

It is evident that one great stream passed by or from China through Central Asia and Siberia to Eastern Europe, perhaps following the great Mongol invasion in the thirteenth century, but upon that we have no reliable information.

Should it prove to be correct that certain types reached Russia at the time named, it cannot be questioned that fowls had been known in the country for many centuries previously. These may, however, have originated in Persia and have come from Central Asia, reaching Southern Russia by way of the states north and east of the Caspian Sea. I have little doubt, however, that from China through Siberia, the route taken by the Mongolian invaders, some of the types referred to were obtained. A look at the map given with this will show how easy the passage would be, especially in the company of armies or trading caravans.

Referring again to the Roman influence, this can be traced as far eastward as Hungary, where some at least of the native races are Italian in type. But when I visited the Balkan States it was to find that across the Lower Danube the common fowl of the country was of a distinctly different character, following those seen in Russia rather than in Western and Southern Europe. It would appear that there the two streams meet ; that there the one which, passing by way of Persia, Greece, and Italy, had spread widely from the Transylvanian Alps to the Atlantic, from the Mediterranean to Scandinavia, had migrated no farther eastward, but came face to face with the other which in its wanderings had traversed the whole width of Asia, both of these assuming forms which marked them as distinct. And when we examine the history of the peoples through whose countries each of these streams passed, and note the way in which they have themselves migrated, it will be seen that such a view, though modifications may have to be made in the light of wider and fuller knowledge as to details yet hidden from us, enables us to understand many points which at one time presented great difficulties. Hitherto the countries concerned in Asia have not received attention from those interested in this subject, from which fact we deduce a reason for our paucity of knowledge in respect to a question of the deepest interest.

Having covered nearly the whole of Europe in search of information on these questions and for the purpose of observation, my eyes have often looked longingly eastward. When in Bulgaria, just on the borders of Turkey, I felt that country was practically part of Asia, so far as its people and its poultry were concerned. Did means and time permit, I should want to trace the fowl backward, through Turkey, Asia Minor, and Persia, to the original *habitat* in India ; then, following the other stream, through Indo-China to China itself, and work through Central Asia to Russia and the Black Sea. Probably such good fortune will not be mine, but that the work should be done, and would be fruitful in knowledge, is undeniable, and I hope other hands will carry out a task and a duty of which I have often dreamt, wishing for the opportunity.

Another side to this question presents itself. I am assured that the interior of China and of Central Asia contains treasures in the way of unknown breeds of fowls, and probably also of ducks and geese, which might as profoundly help and modify the poultry industry of our own and other countries as did the Shanghai sixty years ago. Therefore such a work would not only enrich our stores of knowledge, but be of practical value.



## POULTRY-KEEPING FIFTY YEARS AGO.

By F. W. PARTON.

LAYING COMPETITIONS, trap-nests, selection and mating with increased egg yield in view have undoubtedly done much to bring our present-day hens to their wonderful state of productiveness. It would, however, be interesting for comparison if reliable data were forthcoming as to the laying capacity of some of the breeds which were popular fifty years and more ago. The nearest approach I have come across to an account of a hen's prolificacy in the fifties is more amusing than authentic. Dickson and Mowbray, in *Poultry*, published in 1853, say, in speaking of the Cochin China, or Shanghai fowl:

The size of some of these fowls bred in Ireland is said to have been equal to that of a turkey, the cocks weighing from 12lb. to 15lb. each and the hens from 9lb. to 10lb. The hens were also said to lay five eggs in two days and the eggs to weigh from 2oz. to 3oz. each. Though these weights and the quantity of eggs produced are either exaggerated or relate only to rare specimens, there is no doubt the fowls are very fine and very prolific.

I quite agree that they were rare specimens; but possibly poultry-keepers existed then who believed a hen might lay five eggs in three days, just as people in our day believe that the 250-egg hen is with us.

In conversation some little time back with a man of eighty-one years of age, who had been a poultry-keeper since 1846, I obtained some very interesting details of the breeds that have now become obsolete, so far as their economic qualities are concerned. Like most men of this advanced age, he condemned as mongrels our present-day fowls, with the exception of the Dorking, Old English Game, and Hamburgh, and no virtue would he admit that they possessed. In his opinion the Black Minorca of our day was not to be compared, economically, with the Spanish fowl of his day and generation. The Orpington and Wyandotte were not to be compared with the Brahma-pootra of the fifties. However, despite his prejudices against our modern breeds, some most interesting information was obtained of the methods in vogue when he was a young man. Poultry shows seem to have been keenly taken up, and these exhibitions were generally held in a public-house; in some districts this is not uncommon to-day. The Polish and the Hamburgh were the favourite breeds, and the number of entries at their shows would compare favourably with our modern local exhibitions. The keenest rivalry existed among these old-time fanciers. It was difficult to obtain from my old informant what

methods of improving or maintaining certain arbitrary features were adopted; but no doubt more or less definite lines of breeding were carried out with a view to raising the standard and adding to the beauty of their respective favourites. Naturally improvement would be slow, and the methods, considered nowadays, prehistoric. Scientific breeding has progressed a good deal since these early days of the Fancy.

It is on record that in January, 1853, a poultry show was held at the Baker Street Bazaar, in London, at which were exhibited upwards of six hundred pens of fowls, eleven pens of geese, thirty-three pens of ducks, and ten pens of turkeys. This is a wonderful entry when it is remembered that, in the period of which I am writing, such breeds as the Wyandotte, Plymouth Rock, Orpington, Langshan, Leghorn, Ancona, Faverolles, and Indian Game, not to mention several others, were unknown; and when we remove these popular breeds and their sub-varieties, we have only among the best-known the Dorking, Old English Game, Malay, Spanish, Polish, Hamburgh, Cochin, Silky, and the Frizzled fowl. I must not, however, neglect to mention the "Barndoor," which at that time held a prominent place in the farmyard, and doubtless possessed many good qualities and had distinctive characteristics.

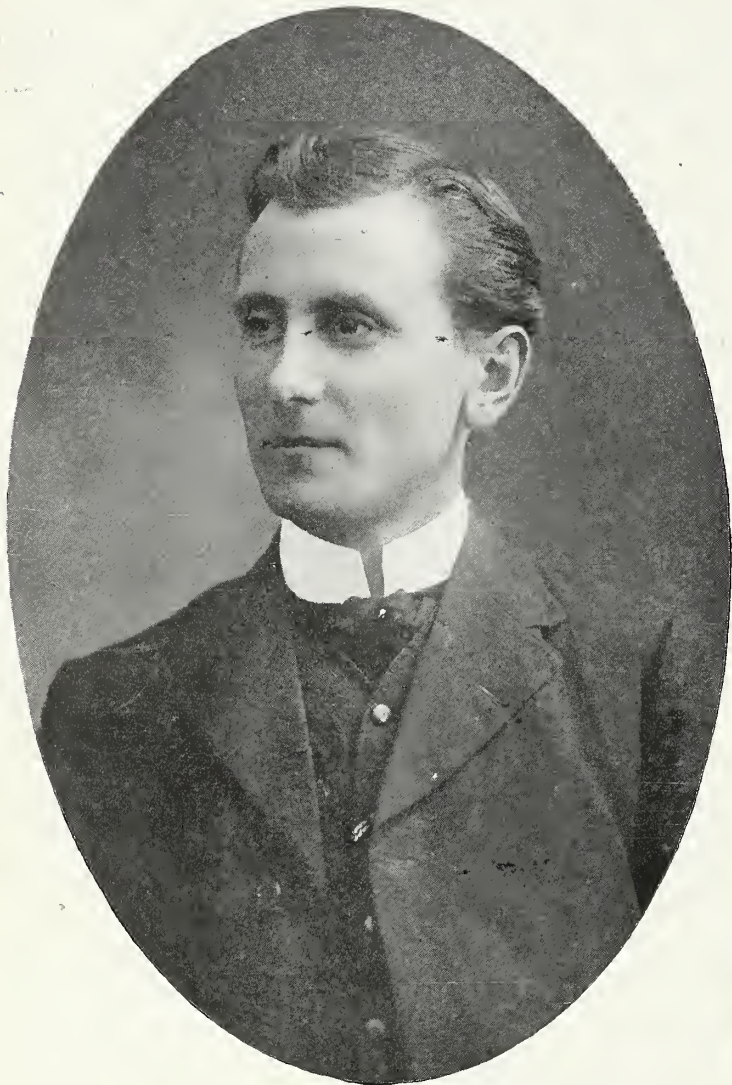
The economic side of poultry-culture has also made marvellous progress in every direction. During the last half-century the imports of eggs and poultry have increased by upwards of 1,800 per cent., with a corresponding growth in the home supplies; and it is likely to increase further, as poultry is occupying a position in agriculture to-day undreamed of a generation ago. A marked difference is also on record as to prices. In half a century eggs have increased by 50 per cent., and the same cannot be said of any other produce of the farm. Unfortunately the reverse is too often the case, and 50 per cent. decrease in price, in more than one branch of agriculture, might be quoted. The methods of management are also widely different, and the poultry-keeper of to-day has appliances unthought of in those earlier days. At the beginning of the fifties incubators and artificial rearers had just made their appearance—that is, in anything like a practical form; but even then they were too intricate to manipulate, so that to the ordinary poultry-keeper they were of very little value.



## WHO'S WHO IN THE POULTRY WORLD.

### MR. GEORGE COOPER.

**M**R. GEORGE COOPER, of Dyce, Aberdeenshire, is well known in the North-East of Scotland, not only as a poultry-fancier and a pioneer, but as a Parish



Mr. GEORGE COOPER.

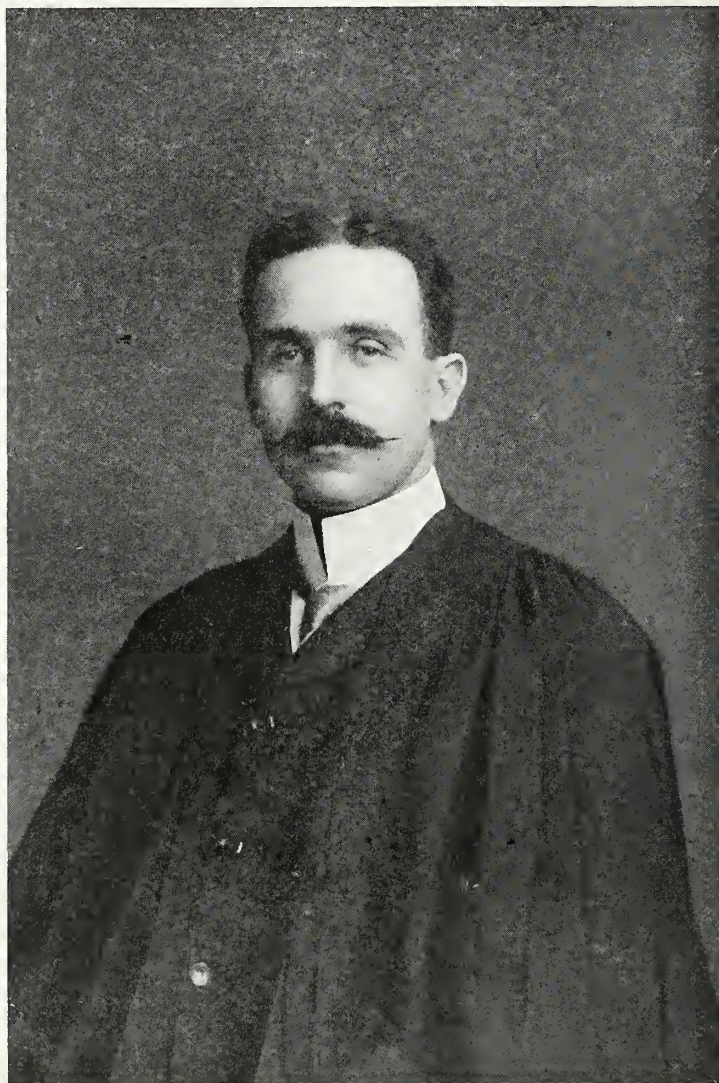
Councillor and a member of the School Board. He is a man of wide sympathies, and possesses an almost unlimited capacity for work; neither can he be styled a fancier in any but the widest, and the best, sense, since his poultry schemes aim at both the purifying and uplifting of the Fancy and the betterment of the industry among cottars and farmers. Beginning with a love for canaries and other cage-birds, he became gradually attracted to poultry, and about ten years ago was among those who came under the spell of the Buff Orpington. The latter breed is still his chief idol, the Brown Leghorn comes next, and the Hamburg—his father's fancy—is not forgotten. He also enjoys a practical acquaintance with other varieties. The space at his disposal is only about a quarter of an acre, but the equipment, thanks

to his own inventiveness and the assistance of Mrs. Cooper, is as perfect as one could desire.

He is a member of the Royal Northern Agricultural Society, the Buff Orpington Club, the Brown Leghorn Club, the Scottish Leghorn Club, and the Poultry Club. The improved classification in the first-named, the increase in the number of its judges, and the greater attractions of its prize-list are largely due to his influence. The Poultry Club owes its present position in Scotland very materially to his strenuous efforts on its behalf, the North-Eastern Scottish Branch, with its membership of sixty or more, being the outcome of his persistent endeavours.

### MR. WALTER JAMES BROWN, B.S.A., LL.M.

**T**HE phrase that best describes Mr. W. J. Brown is that seeming contradiction in terms, an "all-round" specialist. However, the description carries no reproach



Mr. WALTER JAMES BROWN.



to his authority in poultry matters. Have not many of the most interesting and valuable contributions to the scientific side of poultry-keeping been made by philosophers taking the whole realm of Nature for their field? Is it not largely true that the big problems of the poultry world are often solved best by those who dwell in other worlds as well, and can thus view poultry relatively as well as directly? Mr. Brown is a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College and the University of Toronto, a prominent Canadian agriculturist, owner and manager of an Ontario farm devoted to diversified husbandry, a rising journalist and a well-known writer on scientific and literary subjects, editor of the *Weekly Globe and Canada Farmer*, Toronto, one of Canada's leading newspapers, and a specialist in economics and an enthusiast in behalf of the improvement and enrichment of rural life. As if this were not enough, he is a Major of the Second Brigade Canadian Field Artillery, and was one of the Canadian team selected to compete with the British Artillery team sent to Canada by the National Artillery Association in 1907. He is one of the leaders of the movement for national or patriotic military service in Canada.

Poultry-raising has occupied the rest of his attention for many years past, and his influence has been far-reaching in regard to improved poultry practice and widespread education.

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## M. NICHOLAS KRUKOFF,

DIRECTOR OF THE  
RUSSIAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

NOT alone are those practically engaged in poultry-breeding and production entitled to credit for their work in promotion of the poultry industry. Others are necessary and contribute to the success achieved. We have pleasure, therefore, in giving a portrait of M. Nicholas Krukoff, who by the wide range of his observations and experience, and by his earnest and constant efforts for the development and improvement of poultry-keeping in his native land, by his broad outlook and indefatigable labours, has exerted and is exerting a vast influence. He was in regular attendance at the International Poultry Congress, held in St. Petersburg in 1899, and is well known for his work in all branches of rural economy.

M. Krukoff received his education at the Moscow Agricultural Institute. Part of his studies consisted of visits to the United States, more especially to South Carolina, Texas, &c. On the completion of his Collegiate Course he entered the service of the Ministry of Agriculture, in pursuit of which he has paid several visits to Britain, and has also been to Canada, the United States, the West Indies, Chili, Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil, the Argentine, New Zealand, Australia, Denmark, and Sweden. The knowledge thus gained was applied in the various positions held by him in

Russia, and led to his appointment as Director of Agriculture two years ago.

Regarding poultry-culture as a matter of great importance, M. Krukoff paid special attention to this subject, and during his inspectorship in the Moscow Government acted as President of a conference of poultry-breeders drawn from all parts of Russia. Owing to him, this branch has received great help from the Russian Government, and by degrees all questions relating to the subject have been dealt with most practically. Since he has been in power, syllabuses of teaching in poultry have



M. NICHOLAS KRUKOFF.

been adopted for the Schools of Rural Economy, and a system has been introduced for distributing birds of suitable breeds to farmers and others. He has also given a large amount of attention to refrigeration, realising the great importance of this system for a long-distance export trade. His works and separate writings number over two hundred.

M. Krukoff has a charming personality, is a man of wide knowledge and great industry, speaks and writes English with great facility, and is ever open to receive and extend knowledge in the cause of promoting the well-being of agriculturists of every kind.





### The Summer Shows.

Taken as a whole, I think it will be found that the summer shows this year have not been altogether satisfactory. They have been disappointing in more than one respect, but primarily perhaps as regards the number of entries at them. In comparatively few cases indeed, have anything like decent displays from a numerical point been chronicled. Here and there, admittedly, there has been a good turn-out of certain breeds. Take, for instance, the section for the Sussex fowls at the county show at Hove in July, when there was an entry of 209 pens in the 14 classes provided for the breed—a good enough return to satisfy the most exacting secretary of any autumn or winter event. Nevertheless, taking the exhibitions generally this summer, the entries in the poultry departments have been below the usual. Certainly one must not look for 20 and 30 a class at fixtures in the summer, at a time of year when, as a rule, old birds are not fit and chickens are not well enough matured to stand the round. However, I have seen more representative 'tween-season poultry exhibitions than those of this summer.

### Is it the Weather?

There can be little doubt that the unpropitious weather of the past two or three months has not been altogether favourable for show specimens. The cold snaps and the continual wet have rendered it next to impossible to allow exhibition birds anything like a free range for even a few days. And the almost constant confinement which has been forced on them at a time when they need liberty has told against them. It appears to be the general impression among novices that the big exhibitors, who can generally keep a string of birds fit for the summer shows, do so by elaborate houses, and by so confining their exhibition specimens that sun, rain, or fresh air cannot get to them. But there never was a greater mistake, and no one knows this better than the man who has to depend chiefly on the showing of fowls for the express purpose of winning prizes as a means of making a livelihood. To render them fit to go the round, the birds must be out and about in their open

runs when they are not cooped up at shows—they get plenty of confinement when they are on view. But with a wet and cold summer it is only reasonable to expect that there has been a lack of exercise. They have not kept fit, consequently their owners have been chary about entering them, knowing that no amount of special feeding in such circumstances would get them right for top competition. I know this, not only from past experience, but from conversations I have had with well-known exhibitors whose yards have not been represented this summer as frequently as in former years. Moreover, the number of empty pens is a good indication.

### Or Lack of Chickens?

It has been asserted more than once that the chicken "crop" this year was a bad one, and worse than it has been for some years past. I have given instances of this in "Men and Matters" in the July and August issues, so there must be some truth in it! But what ill-effect did this reported shortage have on the early chicken shows? Have the numbers been appreciably less than usual, and has the quantity of so-called "raw" birds at the later summer events been greater than formerly? Those fanciers who have been to the principal fixtures of the season can answer these questions. Candidly, to the first question I would answer "Practically none," and to the other two "Decidedly no." As a matter of fact, the raw chickens this year have been conspicuous by their absence; they must have been nipped in the bud. On the other hand, what I have found is that the number of particularly well-developed "chickens hatched in 1909" of the slow-maturing breeds has been greater than usual! Some fanciers have been hinting quite broadly that the Poultry Club's recently rescinded rule respecting the hatching of show chickens has been acted on in no small degree! Either that, or the craze for combining great egg qualities with standard points has led to the remarkable development of body and feather seen on some "chickens" which have been exhibited this season! No; there is no apparent dearth of birds for the "hatched in 1909" classes.



### Short Entries.

Notwithstanding this, the entries at the majority of the summer shows have been below normal, and more than one society, as the outcome, has threatened to cut its poultry section adrift another year. Where anything like a representative display has been got together, it has only been by dint of urgent appeals and entreaties from officials in close touch with poultry fanciers—entreaties to save the show from failure. If ever genuine appeals have been made for entries, it has been this year; and we have not seen the last of them. Even with the spell of fine, hot weather, we have had to get the old birds through their moult and fit to show, many fanciers will not be over-anxious to patronise the exhibitions. Can it be that exhibitors of the second and third classes are at last fighting shy of the shows at which good prize-money is offered, because they fear that their birds will not stand a chance against the entries of the teamsters? Candidly it appears to be so, and I arrive at the conclusion by looking up the names of entrants in the catalogues.

### "Pot-Hunting."

At many a show this summer, after what may be termed the preliminary canter, it has been a case of Greek meeting Greek, or if a "new face" has put in an appearance it has been exhibited in the name of a well-known professional. I have previously written strongly in this journal of the "Pot-hunter," who rarely gives the novice a decent chance, the man who runs his birds round to all the small "meets." If, in doing so, I have hurt some of my friends' feelings it is for their own good. If the deck-sweeping exhibitor will only consider the matter, he will find that it does not pay to gobble up the small shows. Let him concentrate his energies on the most important events and leave the others for "smaller fry." It will result in larger entries all round, and lead to a healthier state altogether. It should be every exhibitor's desire to strengthen the Fancy and not to kill it. But death will be the inevitable result of the big man swamping the small shows.

## ON ENTERING THE POULTRY FANCY.

By W. W. BROOMHEAD.

IT is not my intention in this article to enter into a lengthy disquisition on "Who is a novice?" Attempts to solve that problem have been made on several occasions, not only in the Poultry Press, but by various specialist clubs. And yet, after all that it is possible to write or say on the subject has been done, it is even now not an easy matter to arrive at a satisfactory conclusion. Rather is it my wish to show the aspiring poultry fancier some of the difficulties which must be surmounted ere he can hope to blossom forth as a fully-fledged exhibitor and be able to take his place in the front rank. And since no useful end can be served by painting the picture in *couleur de rose* tints, I will put a few plain truths before my readers.

One fact which stands out prominently in connection with the poultry Fancy is that to take up successfully a given variety and keep it to standard requirements can rarely be done by those who do not thoroughly understand the many intricate points connected with the mating and exhibiting of fancy stock. This has been exemplified times out of number. And to verify the statement one has merely to glance backwards for a brief space of years to see the names of exhibitors who have flourished for a season or two, and then, so far as the Fancy is concerned, dropped into oblivion—in the vast majority of cases those who bought fame in the form of noted birds, but who failed when it came to breeding winners. I do not make this statement to discourage the beginner. All fanciers who have made a lasting name have had to go through the novice stage. Most have had to face disappointments at times. But when they have once passed through the ordeal and taken up the Fancy in earnest they have found that the result has been worth the trial.

One of the chief things necessary to make a good poultry fancier is a love of the pursuit, since without it the work—and there is plenty of routine work in connection with it—becomes a drudgery. When one takes to poultry one must be keen on it; the keenness will go a long way to aid one in surmounting apparent difficulties. It is almost useless to enter the Fancy because one has been forced to do so. Then, too, many people have tried their hand at it for no other reason than that they were failures at everything else. But they have learnt, and generally to their cost, that to get ahead in the poultry Fancy brains should not be lacking. It is an axiom that "one volunteer is worth a dozen pressed men," and it is one which fits to a nicety the breeding and exhibiting of fancy stock. All men cannot be poultry fanciers, just as, for instance, all men cannot be artists—fanciers are born and not made.

It too often happens that the beginner enters the Fancy in a thoughtless manner, inasmuch as he imagines that he can at the commencement of his career rank with those who have been following the pursuit for years. As I have shown, it is possible to buy a certain amount of fame at the outset by purchasing birds which may be said to be sure winners. To do so requires "a long purse," but to repeat it year after year as the exhibition season comes around has never yet been known in the history of the poultry Fancy. Experience is a great teacher. And although at the present day the novice is in a much better position for gaining information about exhibition poultry than were beginners twenty or thirty years ago, there yet remains much knowledge which cannot possibly be gained from books, and which experience alone will teach.

In most standard publications on the subject of poultry the ground work is fully dealt with. Nevertheless, it is not possible for like to beget like even at the present advanced stage of breeding poultry up to standard requirements. And it is utterly foolish to imagine that one has merely to read a book to discover



how to mate fowls to produce specimens which will all score the ideal hundred points. Some breeders, I am aware, assert that they are able so to conduct their operations that they can foretell results with mechanical certainty. But it cannot be done. Much has been written of late of the Mendelian laws ; but so far as they are connected with the production of prize-winners the matter is yet quite in its infancy, and practically nothing is definitely known of it when breeding for fine points of colour and marking. This is fully emphasised in a recently published treatise on "Mendel's Principles of Heredity," by Professor W. Bateson. In it the author clearly shows that for the present there is little that Mendelism can do for the breeder of fancy stock, and that many experiments must be made and much work done ere the production of first prize-winners becomes an exact science.

Possibly one of the greatest stumbling-blocks to the beginner is the fact that in most breeds one has to resort to double mating to get the best results. Put into simple language, to secure male birds likely to be suitable for the demands of the standards the breeder has to mate differently marked or coloured fowls than is the case when show females are needed. Thus do we have the terms "cockerel breeding-pens" and "pullet breeding-pens"—terms which refer exclusively to exhibition stock. It may be that the demands of the standards of excellence adopted for the several breeds and varieties of poultry by the specialist clubs of the present age are too exacting. To some poultry-keepers these standards are too ideal, and aim at that which can but rarely be attained. However, be that as it may, there is this to be said in favour of the standards, that if the ideal were not a high one and difficult of attainment they would be nothing in the Fancy. There would be no "honour and glory" attaching to the breeding of a winner. Nor would there be any great monetary value in possessing such a bird, since anyone who so desired could breed winners, and the Fancy would ere long cease to exist.

It must be admitted that there are fanciers who advocate single mating, some of them solely on the ground that double mating is opposed to the natural way of breeding. Possibly it is. It is accepted by most authorities on poultry that the domestic fowl of the present age is descended from the jungle fowl. Nevertheless, there is no conclusive proof as to which variety of that species can claim to be the original ancestor. Neither is there sufficient proof to show that Dame Nature resorted to double mating to produce the several gorgeous colours of the male jungle fowl, nor, on the other hand, that the birds did not of their own accord select double mating. It must not be forgotten that there is more than one variety of jungle fowl. The fact remains, however, that in practically the whole of the exhibition varieties of fowl the double mating system has to be followed to attain anything like the ideal of the standards. This holds good even in whole-coloured varieties, and, moreover, in those in which head points are a chief consideration. As an example, take the

White Leghorn, in which the male bird's comb has to be carried upright and the female's well drooped. The most likely cock for the purpose of breeding pullets with suitable headgear is one with a somewhat thin and falling comb. On the other hand, a suitable hen for the production of good-headed cockerels must have a thick and almost upright comb. Yet neither of these birds would be tolerated in the show-pen. Thus do we find, in most breeds, fanciers who are noted for the excellence of their cockerel strain or for that of their pullet strain ; yet seldom does it happen that both appear to perfection in the one.

It must be acknowledged that with breeders of certain varieties there is a tendency just now to revert to the single mating system, although so far, at any rate, it cannot be said to have met with a great deal of success. Perhaps the double mating plan is the outcome of the ideal of the present-day standards demanding more brilliant colours in the female birds, since in a state of nature the females are of a sombre tint. Nevertheless, these natural tints are apparently insufficient to please the majority of those poultry-keepers who place fancy points before other considerations. Probably, as a writer in a contemporary has pointed out, if single mating were universally adopted, it would induce more poultry-keepers to take up the Fancy side of the business. Yet it is very questionable indeed if in those circumstances the poultry Fancy would prove to be the attraction which it undoubtedly is to-day. Then, again, if the standards of excellence were so altered as to make it possible to revert to single mating for the production of show specimens, we would be practically going back to the days of our forefathers, and would be starting all over again ; and there is nothing to lead one to suppose that it would last for long, since it would undoubtedly lower the value of fancy stock all round. In the vast majority of cases the keeping of strictly utility poultry is not a business which can support itself ; but I contend, since it has been proved, that when the Fancy enters into it, so-called poultry-farming can be successfully undertaken. It is not my intention to go into figures to demonstrate my contention. The question of expense and so forth was never better set out than in the May issue of the RECORD in Mr. Edward Brown's article on "Poultry-Farming as a Business." And those who contemplate taking up poultry on a large scale will find it to their advantage to have that advice for ever before them.

Another factor which in my opinion militates against the success of many novices is that too often they are induced to commence with a breed which requires all the "art" of the experienced fancier to produce in anything like perfection. It may be accepted as a fact that all birds of marking—those in which lacing, spangling, barring, pencilling, and their like are the chief points—are much more difficult to breed to standard requirements than are the whole-coloured varieties. Hence, when making his début in the poultry Fancy, a novice is well advised to take up one of the latter in preference. Certainly, good whole-coloured fowls, such

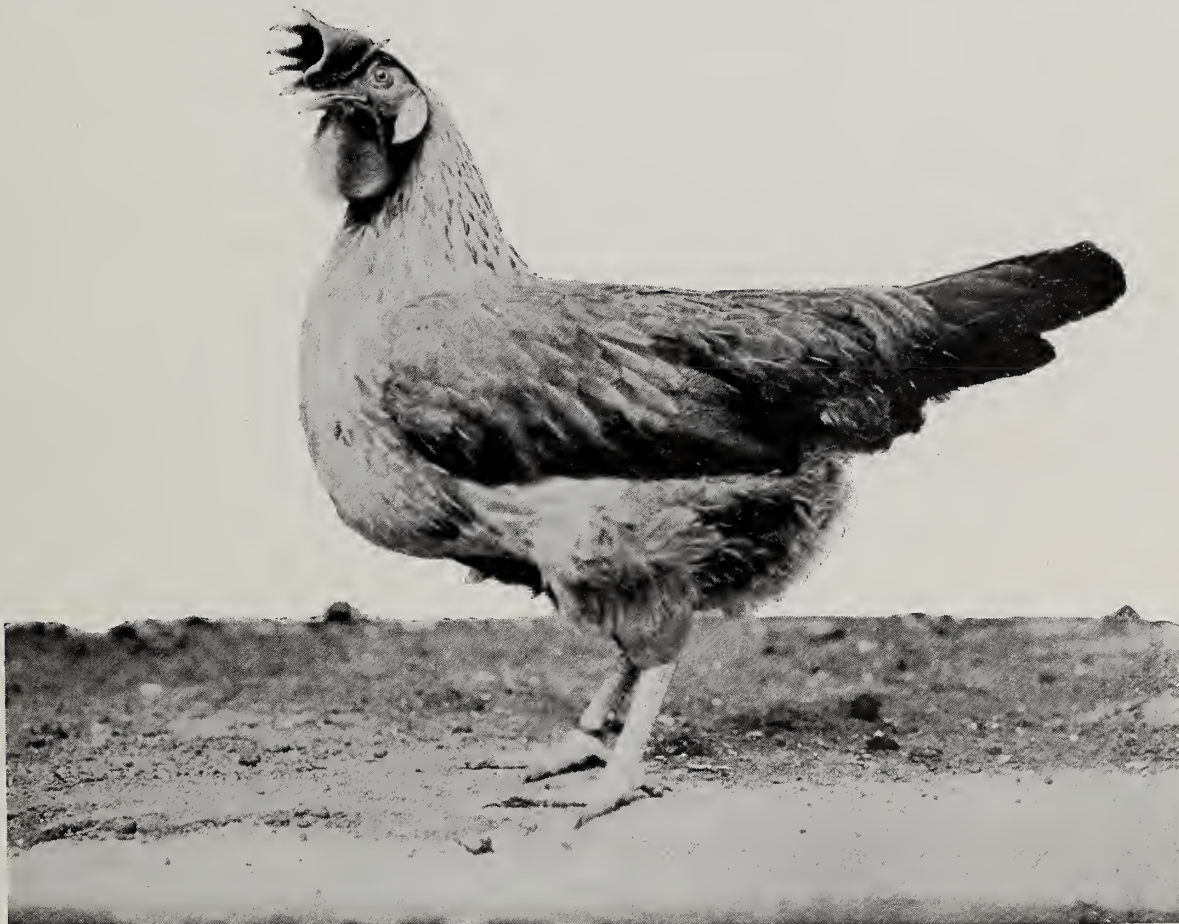


as Blacks, Buffs, and Whites, require to be thoroughly understood to be mated and bred with satisfactory results ; but they will provide the novice with sufficient to interest him and give him a good grounding for the other and more difficult kinds.

In conclusion, I should just like to remark that even when in possession of representative specimens many novices fail to exhibit the chief points of their poultry to advantage. It is one thing to have a good bird, and quite another the showing of it. To be properly staged most fowls require a certain amount of training and preparation. Throughout the Fancy certain means are adopted to rectify defects, and they may be divided into legitimate and otherwise. With faking and trimming, however, the aspiring fancier should have nothing to do ;

## THE BROWN LEGHORN.

AMONG the few varieties of fowl which have been bred and exhibited continuously in this country for more than thirty years, and which still maintain their popularity, there is not one to excel the Brown Leghorn. To the uninitiated it may be a matter of surprise that in these days, when the rush is for anything new, a breed which made its first appearance in this country in 1872 should be still "going strong." But it is a fact, nevertheless, that the Brown Leghorn is one of the most popular of those birds of marking which are bred to a standard of excellence. And there is a good reason for it. As a variety which combines the useful with the beautiful it has not a superior. It is



[Copyright.]

A FAMOUS BROWN LEGHORN PULLET BELONGING TO MR. L. C. VERREY.

suffice it for him to understand how to dress a fowl legitimately for exhibition. It would be going over recently trodden ground to deal with the subject at any length here, since in the November issue of the RECORD there was an article on "Preparing Fowls for Show" which contains hints for the novice in that direction. Suffice it to say that "if a thing is worth doing it is worth doing well." If the beginner on entering the poultry Fancy wishes eventually to take a place in the front rank he must go into the thing thoroughly and not be discouraged by any difficulties or disappointments which may arise.

a good breed for the back-yard poultry-keeper, and eminently suited for those fanciers who like to try their hand at breeding other than whole-coloured fowls.

The Brown, as an exhibition variety, has not been bred very much from the original standard as regards size and general characteristics, although the colour has been very much improved. We do not see in it the high carriage of the wings, the round back, the coarse bone, and other indications of foreign blood having been infused. Nevertheless, it would be absurd to say that the Brown has never been out-crossed. It has, on more than one occasion ; but it has been done so carefully that seldom does one find in the specimens exhibited



any sign of it. Compared with other varieties of the same breed, the Brown, more especially on the male side, is somewhat short legged ; but the contour of the body



MR. VERREY'S BROWN LEGHORN  
COCKEREL, "THE DUKE."

[Copyright.]

and the carriage of the head and tail are distinctly characteristic of the Italian breeds.

The cock's head is fine and the eyes are bright ; the neck is carried well up ; the body is practically heart-shaped, and altogether the carriage of the male bird is



A WINNING BROWN LEGHORN HEN. [Copyright.]

bold and active ; in fact, very similar to that of the exhibition stamp of Old English Game. The hen differs only slightly from the cock, sex, of course, being taken into consideration. As regards colour, it may be said to resemble somewhat closely that of the so-called jungle fowl, the supposed originator of the domestic fowl of the present day. On close examination, however, it differs, the Brown Leghorn hen being of a brighter tint altogether than the jungle hen.

The chief difficulties in breeding the Brown for exhibition purposes are to get a clean hackle striping in the male birds, with bright body colour, and a soft level tone of pencilling free from rustiness in the females. Too often the cocks are shown with light and washy hackles of the Game colour, or even pale straw, and almost devoid of black striping. In the hens it is not rare to find shaftiness on the back, rather coarse pencilling, and rustiness or "foxiness" on the sides or wings.

The Brown Leghorn, however, is a decidedly pretty bird, and, given well-bred specimens with which to start, it is not very difficult to breed really good exhibition stock. As in most breeds of Fancy fowls, the double mating system has to be followed to produce suitable males and females.

## MEN AND MATTERS.

By W. W. BROOMHEAD.

*A Famous Irish Yard—The Rev. T. W. Sturges—Mr. Cass's Orpingtons—A Note from Pool—Rose-combed Plymouth Rocks—The Combined Show—Another "Combined" Show—The Wyandotte Bantam Club.*

### A FAMOUS IRISH YARD.

Among Irish exhibitors of Plymouth Rocks and all-round judges of poultry, none is, perhaps, better known than Miss May MacQuillan, of Great Clonard, Wexford, who is the RECORD'S special correspondent for the midland district of Ireland. The Barred variety of the Plymouth Rock is probably the most favoured in Miss MacQuillan's poultry establishment, but the Partridge Wyandotte also finds a place there, and the result of the hatching season is about four hundred odd chickens of those two varieties. Five pens of Plymouth Rocks were mated last season, and among the stock were the pick of the 1907 and 1908 winners. Soundness of colour is a great point in this Wexford yard, and, as Miss MacQuillan says, she does not like a pattern of Barring which looks well at a distance but does not stand close inspection. Since the stock birds at Great Clonard are allowed out in all weathers, there are never many adults in show condition for the summer events, and the year's chickens are depended on in the autumn and winter to keep up the high reputation of the strain. One of the pens this year was headed by a son of an historical Plymouth Rock cock, a bird which was purchased for fresh blood. But despite the assertion so often made by those who are not enamoured of inbreeding that line-bred fancy stock are not to be relied on, it is refreshing



to be able to record that the offspring of the foregoing pen were all strong and no trouble to rear, and that, to quote Miss MacQuillan, "ten or twelve chickens from each hatch should be good enough for anyone."

THE REV. T. W. STURGES.

Writing from Marston Vicarage, Northwich, Cheshire, the Rev. T. W. Sturges, M.A., informs me that he has had a very satisfactory hatching season, his Leghorns of all varieties and White Orpingtons being especially promising. Mr. Sturges is doubtless known to most readers of the RECORD as an enthusiastic fancier and a successful breeder and exhibitor of poultry. He has recently been adding to his fame in another direction. As author of "Poultry Culture for Profit" he has made a name in poultry literature, while his latest work, "The Poultry Manual," should add further to his reputation as an authority whose advice is well worth following. This latter book is unquestionably a guide to the breeder and exhibitor of high-class stock, and the chapter on colour is handled in a masterly manner, and is, in my opinion, the most interesting part of this most interesting work. However, the book is exhaustively dealt with in the review columns, so there is no need to say more of it here.

MR. CASS'S ORPINGTONS.

Among fanciers of the Buff Orpington—and their name is legion—one of the most prominent, considering the practically short time that he has been in the Fancy, is Mr. Edward A. Cass, of Candlesby House, Burgh S.O., Lincolnshire. It is not much more than half a dozen years since he went in seriously for fancy fowls, but he is one of the few who has "scored off his own bat" rather than paid long prices for well-known winners. He has, in fact, shown only one bird which he has not bred; he is a staunch believer in scientific breeding, and it is due solely to his great care in selecting and mating his stock that his strain of Buff Orpingtons has been bred to a high state of perfection. He writes to me that he has had a grand hatching season this year, and although he has reared just under 300 chickens (his total generally far exceeds that number) he has made up for it in quality; in fact, he says, "I went through 57 pullets a day or so ago, and after culling hard I could kill only the odd seven of them, the others coming up to the full test—best of type and sound throughout." There should be some keen competition in Buff Orpingtons at the classical shows this season.

A NOTE FROM POOL.

Mention Pool in Fancy circles, and one does not connect it with a game of skill, but with Quarry Farm and Messrs. Whitaker and Tootill's birds. Here is a stud of White Leghorns, Black Minorcas, and White Orpingtons which has certainly not a superior in the world, and very few, if any, equals; in fact the proprietors claim that it is the strongest and most successful stud ever established. At any rate, during the past five seasons birds from this famous yard have been awarded over fifty-five challenge cups, thirty gold medals, and 2,500 special, first, and other prizes. That is something

of a record; and when it is mentioned that among the wins are the 50-guinea trophy and the British Minorca Club's championship prizes at the Club Shows of 1905, 1906, 1907, and 1908, both Leghorn Club's White Leghorn challenge cups outright (three years in succession), and the Poultry Club's champion medal at the White Orpington Club Shows of 1906, 1907, and 1908, it will be seen that the successes have been made in keen competition. But the partners do not believe in running their birds round to all the small "meets"; they generally have their young stock ready for the useful events, when it is their practice to concentrate. If other large fanciers would do likewise it would give the novice a chance, and make competition at the most important fixtures all the keener. Writing of the hatching season, Messrs. Whitaker and Tootill inform me that on the whole the results are very satisfactory as far as regards quality. Early in the season the quantity was reduced by the unpropitious weather of February and March, but the later-hatched chickens have done splendidly, and are most promising.

ROSE-COMBED PLYMOUTH ROCKS.

In favour of the Rose-combed Plymouth Rock it is stated that since the original fowls of the breed were produced from Dominiques and Brahmas the present-day single-comb must have been bred from the single-comb "sports," and that it is merely reverting to the original Plymouth Rock to have it adorned with a rose-comb. That may be. The chief objection, however, is that it too closely resembles the Cuckoo Wyandotte. This objection, in my opinion, does not carry much weight, because, until last show season, when two or three specimens were exhibited, no doubt as a move to checkmate the other breed, the Cuckoo Wyandotte was practically a dead letter in the Fancy. But there is this fear—namely, if the rose type of comb were permitted in the Barred Plymouth Rock it would probably also be allowed in other varieties of that breed, such as the Black, the Buff, and the White. In that case there would certainly not be a great deal of difference between the Plymouth Rock and the Wyandotte. It would be a case of a distinction without a difference, and it would be an easy matter to obtain both breeds from the same mating. And that is not what the poultry Fancy generally desires. We already have two varieties of other breeds (I refer to the Jubilee Orpington and the Speckled Sussex) practically the same in every detail, although their type of body should be different; but I fear that the Fancy will not take kindly to others. Moreover, fanciers have for years been accustomed to consider the Plymouth Rock solely as a breed with a single-comb, just as we consider the Wyandotte as purely a Rose-combed breed. However, those who have bred, and are breeding, the Rose-combed Barred Plymouth Rock are not to be so lightly put off, and if a club for the variety is not exactly in existence it shortly will be, and time alone will prove whether the variety will be recognised as a new one, or whether it will sink into oblivion or merge into the Cuckoo Wyandotte.



## THE COMBINED SHOW.

Apparently things are not moving as quickly as they might in connection with the projected idea of holding a great combined Specialist Club Show in 1910, and Messrs. W. J. Golding and W. M. Bell, who are engineering the scheme, have again circularised the specialist clubs on the matter. It has been decided to hold a meeting at the forthcoming Dairy Show (October 5, 6, 7, and 8), and to invite all clubs to send a delegate or delegates to that meeting. As I pointed out in my notes in the July RECORD, the present is not a good time of the year in which to work up sufficient enthusiasm on such a subject to enable its promoters to make much headway, since very few of the specialist clubs hold their meetings during the summer. But the matter should be got in hand at once, even for a show to be held in the 1910-11 season, because the details in connection with such a large affair as the combination would surely be cannot be rushed through at the eleventh hour. I see that a guarantee fund is being formed, and that is certainly a move in the right direction. It should be a large one, and it no doubt will be, since there are plenty of "moneyed" members of the specialist clubs who are sufficiently wide awake to see the benefit of such a fund. It is rumoured that the scheme is meeting with opposition in certain quarters, on the grounds that such a combination would be detrimental to the success of other classical events. But I question whether there is any reason for it. The Fancy has already witnessed two of the biggest poultry shows in the world held in London on the same days, and neither appeared to suffer to any great extent because they clashed. However, if I am rightly informed, there would not be a repetition of such clashing; and London is surely big enough to "run" two poultry shows of an extensive nature in one season. There are other venues than "the great glass house" at Sydenham—to wit, the Royal Horticultural Hall at Westminster and the Alexandra Palace at Hornsey, to name only two.

## ANOTHER "COMBINED" SHOW.

Mention of the suggested combined show of the specialist poultry clubs reminds me of a combination on a smaller scale. I refer to the Grand United Metropolitan Show which was launched last season. The object of this combination is to promote a grand annual show, open to members of affiliated societies having their headquarters within the London postal area, to be held within a radius of three miles from St. Paul's Cathedral. It may be thought that the area is somewhat limited, but it must be remembered that there are many fanciers' societies with headquarters within it, and there is no reason why such a venture should not indeed be a grand one. It should certainly be the means of creating keener competition among the members and of inducing those fanciers who are not members of any metropolitan club to join one and so participate in the good things that are provided. This year's show is to be held on November 23, at the Lambeth Baths, the venue, by the way, of the Poultry

Club Show in 1900. Mr. A. Watson, of 116, Maurice-avenue, Noel Park, Wood Green, London, N., is the hon. secretary. The question of dividing any profit or making up a loss that might be incurred at the annual show has been settled, and the basis for it is sound—viz., profits in proportion to the number of entries made by each society, losses in proportion to the number of members in each society. It can be imagined that the more societies to enter the combination, the better chance there will be of the affair being a success.

## THE WYANDOTTE BANTAM CLUB.

The Wyandotte Bantam Club, of which I wrote briefly in last month's notes, is now an accomplished fact, so it rests with its members to make it one of the strongest and most influential specialist Bantam clubs of the age. There are already fifty odd names on the book, and probably a great many more fanciers are awaiting developments before joining. The subscription is low, half a crown per annum, so that no one interested in Wyandotte Bantams has an excuse for not joining. "He who pays quickly pays twice," and helps on the working of a club. Mr. Tom R. Grant, of Sunny Bank, Abbotts-lane, Coventry, is the hon. secretary. He will be pleased to hear from RECORD readers who desire to join the club. The varieties represented by the fanciers who have already joined are Partridge, Silver - pencilled, Columbian, White, Cuckoo, Black, Blue-laced, Buff-laced, and Gold-laced. Classes for Wyandotte Bantams will be provided at Bingley Show on September 1, at Hayward's Heath on September 16 and 17, at Penistone on August 26, for any variety; also at Worsley Show on August 13, for chickens. Classes for Blacks will be put on at Kenilworth Show on August 12, at Chester on August 25, at the International (Crystal Palace) from November 16 to 18, at Birmingham from November 27 to December 2, at Dudley on December 8 and 9, and at Bromsgrove on December 14, and probably also at Sutton Coldfield and Market Weighton Shows, while classes for Blue-laced will be guaranteed at the International and also at the Blue-laced Wyandotte Club Show.

## SOME RECENT SHOWS.

THE severe gales prevalent throughout the country towards the end of July played havoc in many parts, and more than one society will have to chronicle its show as a failure for no other reason than that the weather was against success. The Vale of Conway Fanciers' Association held a show at Llandudno, which promised to be one of the best events of the Principality; but a heavy wind that sprang up in the early morning blew down the large poultry tent and caused much confusion, some exhibits eventually going astray. It also interfered seriously with the "gate," and the attendance of the public (always an important item from a financial aspect) was very meagre. The Poultry Club specials which were competed for were won as follows: Medal for the best fowl in the show and cup for the



best hen, Mr. Lee's Wheaten Old English Game ; cup for the best cock in the show and for the best Orpington, Mr. Milton Bode's Black cockerel ; Plymouth Rock cup, Mr. Horbury's White cock ; Wyandotte cup, Mr. Watson's Partridge cock. The success of the Denbigh and Flint Society's show at Colwyn Bay on the following day was also marred by the boisterous weather. The morning opened with heavy showers, and although the sun came out later the wind got up, and no sooner had judging been completed than several of the tent poles snapped. Two or three of the adjoining tents were blown down, and without more ado fanciers who were present began to remove their birds, with the result that soon after 2 p.m. many of the best specimens were on their homeward journey. The chief special prizes at this event were won by Miss Babcock's Spangled Old English Game cock, local cup ; Mr. Brandon Smith's Barred Plymouth Rock hen, champion cup for best fowl in show, Poultry Club hen and breed cups ; Mr. Milton Bode's Black Orpington cockerel, cup for best cock in show and breed cup, as at Llandudno ; and Mr. Watson's Partridge Wyandotte cock, breed cup, with the Llandudno winner.

The Royal Northern at Kittybrewster, Aberdeen, came off during fine weather, and with a large entry and a big attendance of the public it was a most successful show. The local challenge cup (confined to exhibitors residing in the counties of Aberdeen, Banff, Kincardine and Moray) was won by Mr. Davidson's Silver Dorking hen ; the Society's medal for the best cock by Mr. Morgan's Black Orpington ; and for the best hen by Lord Leith's White Wyandotte ; the Poultry Club's breed cups by Lord Leith's Barred Plymouth Rock cock, Mr. Henderson's Brown Leghorn cockerel, Mr. Argo's Silver Wyandotte hen, and Mr. Reid's Buff Orpington cock, which also secured the Branch cup. The "Highland" at Aberdeen followed closely on the Royal Northern, and there was a good turn-out of poultry—better, in fact, than it has been for some time at the shows of that Society. It was a pity, however, that owing to the hide-bound rules which always obtain at the event, members of the Press were not permitted to enter the poultry-shed until the whole of the awards were made and the public were allowed in ; and since judging was not completed until late in the afternoon of the opening day, it caused much inconvenience to those Pressmen who had to take notes. I wonder if those who make such rules are aware that it casts a reflection on the integrity of the judges and of those gentlemen who officiate as stewards ?

The late Tunbridge Wells Show was not what it used to be, and altogether, so far as the poultry section was concerned, it was disappointing. No fewer than twenty-two of the original seventy-six classes were cancelled, lack of support being noticeable chiefly in the Bantams. Some of the classes which were allowed to stand, however, did not compare very favourably with the display at former events, and this was particularly the case in Black Wyandottes and Buff Orpingtons. It was pleasing, nevertheless, to find an excellent entry of

Sussex fowls ; and although the total did not reach that at Hove Show the previous week (there was a record at the county event) it was decidedly good, seventy-five in six classes, and proved that the breed is "going strong" in the South-east. The Leicester County Show at Hinckley was another disappointment ; the entry throughout was poor, although quality was not lacking. The eighteen classes for adult fowls mustered only sixty-eight, and although chickens were forward in fair numbers, taken as a whole and compared with former events of the Society the poultry section appeared to me to be but a shadow of the past. Whether the meagre display was due to reduced prize-money, to the event not being held under Poultry Club Rules, to its clashing with more important exhibitions, or to the fact that it was not judiciously advertised matters not ; it was not what one is accustomed to find in connection with the Leicester series. In some classes prizes were withheld "for want of merit," so I was informed, but it certainly looked as though want of quantity had more to do with the matter ; it caused much grumbling, which is not surprising.

Blackpool Show is always a popular fixture ; it offers the farming fraternity a double event, an agricultural show and seaside festivities, of which many take advantage, needless to add. Behind Blackpool, however, there is a large stretch of agricultural land, known as the Fylde district, and since large egg marts are held regularly in the neighbourhood and poultry is well to the fore on all the farms, it offers the poultry fancier a chance to combine business with pleasure. The Poultry Show was a two-day affair this year, but the entry was low, the best-filled classes being for Orpington and Andalusian hens with six each. The ever-popular "Royal Lancs" came off this year in the suburbs of Southport, and the event was visited by thousands of people. The show yard was well arranged, but the torrential rain which fell from the early hours until noon of the third day (the fixture extends from Thursday to Monday) resulted in several parts of the ground being under water, although as a powerful pumping-engine was got to work on the flood it was soon dispersed. The poultry section of the event was, as usual, a strong one and thoroughly representative, and many well-known winners, both old birds and chickens of the year, were exhibited. Not the least important feature were the utility classes, which were well filled, and the Society deserves every praise for its efforts to encourage this part of poultry culture.

No fewer than twenty-four poultry shows were held on August Bank Holiday, and in most instances they were about up to the usual. The "gate," with the fine weather which prevailed throughout the land, appears to have been satisfactory in each instance. The other chief events of the past month were the great Yorkshire Show at Beverley on the 10th, 11th, and 12th ; Enniscorthy, County Wexford, on the 17th ; Worsley, Lancaster, and Fleet, all on the 18th ; the Hallam and Ecclesall, at Sheffield, on the 19th ; Chester, on the 25th ; and Penistone and Sandy, both on the 26th.





### Selection of Males.

For the sole purpose of table egg-production the presence of a male bird in a pen is as unnecessary as it is undesirable, infertile eggs retaining their freshness much more successfully than those in which the germ has been impregnated, and the yield not being helped by the mere fact of mating. That some of our foreign competitors send us infertile eggs is a fact to be noted, as an example worth following. For other purposes, however, the selection of desirable males is a matter demanding much more careful consideration than it often receives from commercial producers. The retention within his own control of a producer's own breeding stock, as regards both sexes, is very desirable in the interests of the preservation of essential characters—which are as important in breeding for market as for the show-pen—if this can be managed with the avoidance of the evils of close breeding. Nevertheless, the circumstances of many breeders do not permit the successful following of such a course, owing to the obvious requirements as regards available land, not to mention the time and labour involved. As a result of such limitations a very large number of relatively small breeders purchase the required males in the autumn, in a more or less haphazard manner. The introduction of an unrelated male into a breeding-pen is always a risky proceeding, whatever the object of the production, and is undoubtedly the true cause of much disappointment—despite certain much-advocated advantages which are generally advanced without any reservation. To know and be able to recognise the desirable points in a male is one thing, but to be in a position to form some opinion as to the course of breeding in mating a purchased rooster with one's own hens and pullets is another matter entirely. When purchase is unavoidable there should be absolute confidence between seller and buyer, and if no certainty is possible, the experience of

the former should help the latter to minimise the risks attending the introduction of unknown blood.

### Autumn Feeding.

It is a recognised rule of successful stock-feeding that the quality and quantity of the food shall not only meet the different requirements of the various descriptions of fowls, but that the dietary must be adjusted to the exigencies of the season; and of all periods that of autumn probably presents the greatest difficulties as regards the due application of feeding rules. Allowing for annual climatic variation, it happens more often than not that autumn weather is more or less deceptive, and that if we get a maximum of sunshine, we generally have cold winds and a rapidly falling night temperature. Young stock, pullets, and moulting hens are very susceptible in such circumstances, and it is in some measure a critical period for all classes of stock, unless the management is equal to the occasion. The increasing coldness and length of the nights suggest the feeding of young chickens with more warming food, and the last meal should be sustaining in character; the judicious use of small or kibbled maize is often advisable, and this corn will benefit the pullets if it is not fed too freely. Birds in moult must be suitably housed and given nourishing food. The stock ducks should be allowed some meat, and condition must be maintained in the old geese. As the supply of food in the fields diminishes, there should be an increase in the grain allowance of the turkey poults.

### Autumn Chickens.

The relative scarcity of hatchable eggs, consequent upon moulting hens and immature pullets in most cases reduces the rearing-work of the most persistent producers; nevertheless, chicken-raising is now worth while, if the breeding-stock is in good condition and properly mated for autumn work, the youngsters matur-



ing upon a rising market. Suitable breeders for such a production are the early "broodies" that have moulted and got into good condition, mated with a young and vigorous male; and the result of such a mating should be strong chickens, not over-difficult to rear during autumn under suitable conditions. The highest possible success is, however, often missed owing to the rearer's inability to appreciate autumnal influences. Not only must there be another change of rearing-ground, but the fresh situation must be chosen with a view to sufficient shelter, without excluding the all-necessary sunshine, every ray of which is wanted by autumn chickens. Especial attention should be given to the sleeping quarters, allowing plenty of room and ample ventilation, in order to minimise the risks involved in changing the night conditions for the damp and chilly influences of early mornings. In most cases of failure in autumn rearing the chickens are the product of an already overworked stock, the vitality of the progeny of lengthy matings being necessarily at its lowest in the autumn, as also is the percentage of fertile eggs.

### Autumn Eggs.

As bearing upon the average shortage of hatchable eggs in autumn, it is probable that this failure in successful production would be to some considerable extent prevented if farmers would realise the seasonable tendency to over-feeding. Although in some circumstances and particulars (as previously noted in reference to turkey poults) field food is diminishing, there are other directions in which ordinary fowls, more particularly, are tempted to excess. Personal investigations regarding the causes of irregular egg-yield at this period have in most cases shown that birds are often too fat in autumn, and frequently diseased in consequence; these observations being confirmed by a series of post-mortem examinations, which proved that not only an inability to lay, but death, is so often directly due to an excessive accumulation of fat. These experiences were nearly all in connection with fowls kept upon farms, where they had access to the harvest fields, and were, in addition to frequent surfeiting abroad, also freely fed in the yard. Whilst some take seasonable and economic advantage of the harvest and run their fowls upon the stubbles methodically, others fail to discriminate, and although they may recognise the difference between the organic requirements in summer and winter, there is a failure to make allowance for the more or less adventitious advantages of the season and the situation.

## A COLD DOUCHE ON MODERN EGG-PRODUCTION.

THE following quotation from "A Biometrical Study of Egg-Production in the Domestic Fowl," by Raymond Pearl, Ph.D., and F. M. Surface, Ph.D., of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station, recently published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, shows that egg-laying in abundance is no new thing, not a

matter of laying competitions or nineteenth century methods:

"A question which constantly recurs to the mind of one studying the problem of egg-production is: How does the egg-production of the 'improved' strains and breeds of the present day compare with that of the domesticated fowl of earlier times?"

"It is the common opinion that, with the greater attention which has been paid in recent years to poultry-raising as a definite and independent branch of agriculture, there has been a great improvement in the so-called 'utility' points of the domestic fowl. There have unquestionably been great improvements made in the last twenty-five years in the management of poultry. Equally there can be no doubt that with this improvement in methods of management there has been a decided betterment in the general average condition, in respect to 'utility' points, of the domestic fowl. It is not so clear, however, whether within modern times there has been any marked amelioration in the innate qualities on which high egg-production depends. This may at first sight appear to be an unwarranted statement. A study of the available evidence, however, we believe, can only lead to the position of doubt on the question just expressed.

"It should be understood clearly that the question is not as to whether, for example, the average egg-production, within a given period, of hens in general is at the present time greater than it was fifty or a hundred years ago. It undoubtedly is. Rather, the significant point is whether, if a given lot of hens of, say, a century ago had been fed, housed, and handled in the same way that our so-called best laying strains are to-day, their egg-production would not have been substantially the same as that of the present-day flock. The answer to this question, so far as egg-production is concerned, is by no means certain.

"The difficulty, of course, lies in getting adequate and trustworthy evidence as to the egg-producing ability of fowls in any but the most recent times. In the older literature one finds plenty of statements that such and such a breed is 'noted for its excellence in laying,' and the like, but any precise statement as to the criterion of 'excellence in laying' then in vogue is almost invariably wanting. Further, when numerical data are given they demand the most careful scrutiny before they can be accepted, because too often it appears from the context that the recorder has some personal interest in making the egg-production a high one. In such cases the data must obviously be taken with a grain of salt. We have been able, however, to find a few definite records of egg-production in earlier times, which appear to be in every respect trustworthy. There is no more reason to doubt their accuracy than there is to doubt the accuracy of any quantitative data of the same period. A few such records may be cited.

"In the *Journal of Agriculture* (English), Vol. XI., pp. 339 and 340, the following detailed records of egg-production are given, on the authority of the editor, in an article on artificial hatching:



"Produce of three Poland pullets hatched in the preceding June, from December 1, 1835, to December 1, 1836:

Eggs laid.		Eggs laid.	
December.....	12	July .....	55
January .....	50	August .....	55
February .....	48	September .....	55
March .....	50	October .....	25
April .....	54	November .....	9
May .....	55		
June .....	56	Total.....	524

"These figures give as an average production for the year 174.67 eggs per bird, certainly a very creditable performance. We can discover no reason for doubting the accuracy of these figures. They are not presented as in any way exceptional, but rather, so far as can be judged from the context, as a definite numerical statement, by way of illustration of what any poultry-raiser might reasonably expect the performance of his hens to be under ordinarily favourable conditions.

"Another statement of the same general tenor is to be found in an 'Essay on the Rearing and Management of Poultry,' by William Trotter, published in the Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society in 1852 (Vol. II., pp. 161-202). The essay was awarded a prize by the Royal Agricultural Society in the year mentioned, and hence, we may feel reasonably sure, was subjected to careful and critical scrutiny before publication. It seems, under the circumstances, altogether unlikely that any serious mis-statement of fact would have occurred in the essay in the first instance, or, if it had occurred, would have been allowed to pass into print. On page 169 (loc. cit.) the following statement is to be found: 'Hens of the best laying varieties will lay in a season from 160 to 270 eggs each, averaging 215.' If any credence whatever is to be put on this statement, it would appear to indicate that as high egg-production as any that we know now was regarded as at least possible fifty years ago.

"In another essay, which was awarded a prize by the Royal Agricultural Society, and was published in the Journal of that Society in the year 1867 (Series 2, vol. 3, pp. 520-532), a still more definite and precise statement respecting egg-production is to be found. The essay is by Mrs. F. Somerville, and its title is 'On the Rearing and Management of Poultry on an Ordinary Farm.' The same conclusions as were reached concerning Mr. Trotter's essay appear to apply regarding the trustworthiness of statements in this latter one. On page 532 (loc. cit.) it is stated that in one year '104 hens produced 13,739 eggs *exclusive of those set.*' This leads to an average production per hen of 132.11 eggs in the year. The author goes on to state that the 104 hens 'reared 372 chickens, besides hatching the ducks and guinea-fowls.' Now, assuming that it took but 400 eggs to produce 372 chickens, we have to total egg-production 14,139 in the year. This gives an average of just under 136 eggs. This can only be regarded as comparing very favourably indeed with the best of our modern records of egg-production in equally large flocks, especially when it is considered that these hens had to do all the incubating of at least 372 hen eggs, 79 duck eggs, and 42 guinea-fowl eggs.'

## THE FINAL CHOICE.

By J. W. HURST.

ALTHOUGH, as was pointed out in the July issue of the ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD, it is necessary to the attainment of the highest possible success that the breeder should bear in mind the special requirements of his production and the final selection of his growing birds for that purpose, and should in consequence cultivate a habit of constant observation—mentally selecting and rejecting throughout the rearing period—there is no doubt that the commoner practice is to defer all such considerations until the approach of mating and the making-up of breeding- and laying-pens forces attention to a process of primary importance. Those who adhere to yet older methods, and they form a by no means insignificant proportion in relation to the whole, are even more reckless in that they frequently dispose of all their best-grown birds as they attain saleable age, and are left with an insufficient remainder of more or less inferior fowls or birds hatched out of due season from which to renew their stock—any such course resulting in inevitable decadence, a process that is only prolonged according to the measure of sheer luck.

In order to rise superior to mere mediocrity of production, with the danger of a still further descent to inferiority, luck must give place to the nearest approach to certainty that present knowledge can assure, and choice must, as far as may be, overrule chance. The choice of stock upon which the future character of production depends must at this period of the year be final and absolute, at any rate, as far as concerns the general purposes of the average commercial producer. That choice is usually more or less limited to the material that previous management has rendered available, being narrow or wide—as well as good, bad, or indifferent—according to the perspicacity of the individual, who, except in so far as the necessity arises to depend upon the skill and judgment of other breeders for the possible selection of "fresh blood," is now thrown upon his own resources, and must stand or fall in the future by his past work as a breeder and his present discrimination as a selector. The choice demands the ability to distinguish clearly, both by the eye and the understanding.

Although the understanding must operate prominently in the selection of laying stock, to the extent that an exact knowledge of pedigree and the records of strain possess a particular significance, it should be clearly realised that according to the evidence at present available there is no promise of uniformity or permanence in the revelation of the trap-nest. The descendants of the record-breaker must individually be tested for proof or disproof of heredity in this quality. Enthusiasm for strain is only legitimate in so far as it admits the limitations of imperfect knowledge, but when it is blind to obvious defects it becomes misleading to the uninitiated, and the old story of the sightless and those without sight is in danger of disastrous repetition. The trap-nest has enforced more than one lesson bearing



upon the important subject of selection, but in the glamour of the highest score we are apt to overlook the significance of the lowest, and very generally forget the limitations imposed by the average of a strain. Attention has been directed to this very point in recent contributions dealing with laying competitions, wherein mistakes in selecting the individuals of a strain are suggested as the cause of failure in competition—an argument that emphasises the uncertainty of this character. Choice must be aided by the eye as well as the understanding, although the fallibility of visual selection is well illustrated in the before-mentioned admission, possessors of trap-nested strains failing on account of an inability to select those that are above the average from those that fall below.

Relative to externals and their indications of fitness for the main purposes of production, choice can only be aided by certain broadly-defined principles, about which it is scarcely possible—or if possible more or less unprofitable—to do more than generalise; and this not only on account of the difficulty of adequate description, but more particularly because experience is so much more trustworthy than the attempt to see through the eyes of another. Speaking generally and by way of example—an important one in view of a modern tendency—it may be said that size and prolificacy are compatible to a certain point; but that these noteworthy modifications of domestication are limitable, so that if an extreme be sought by selection in either direction the one tends to destroy the other. Size is incompatible with prolificacy, just as a forced production is destructive

of the producing organism, and natural limits are set to the reproduction of the extremes developed under domestication. Large, heavy birds are out of place in the breeding-pen, fertility and the mere production of eggs at all being inimically influenced by excess of size and weight, whereas the best layers and the most fertile are found among birds of moderate build—even inclining to what some modern standards would classify as small; a statement of fact that must be qualified by the note that legitimate size is relative—a remark that is necessarily added to prevent misconception on the part of the general reader, who may not discriminate with regard to types and objects.

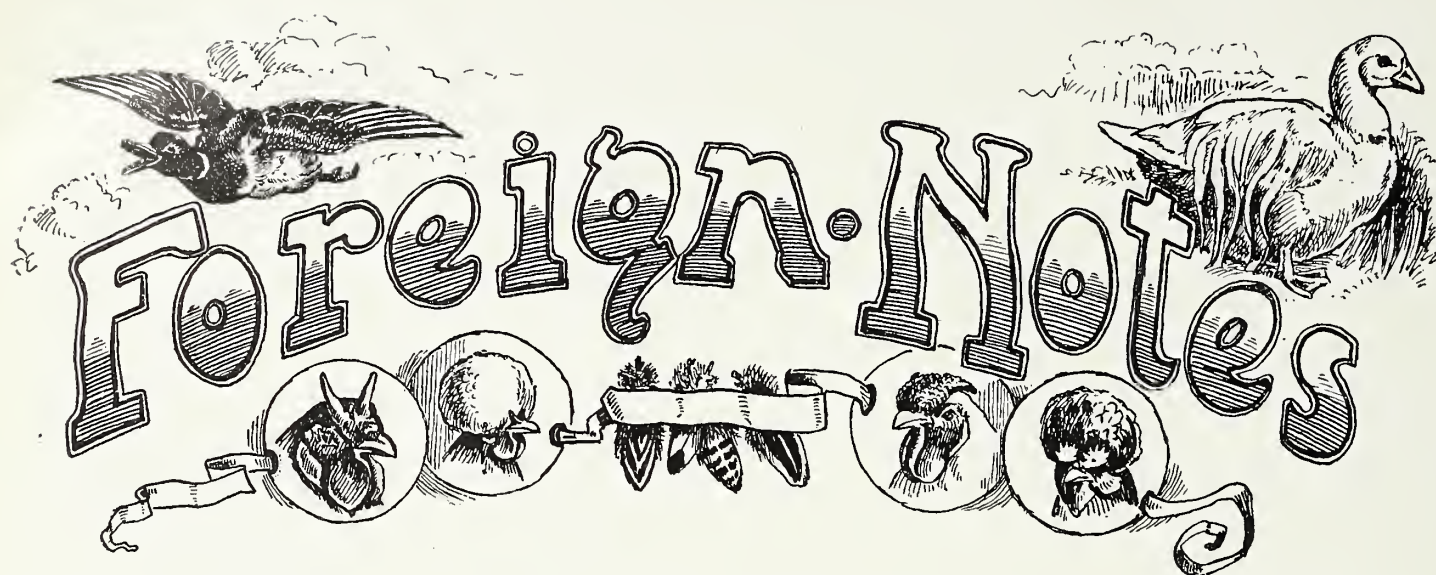
A size that the egg-producer would almost instinctively reject may quite reasonably be sought by the breeder of table fowls remembering that for this purpose there are also necessary limits in view of the influence of excess of weight upon reproduction, and the desirability of perpetuating (as far as may be) a suitable strain. Excessive size and weight in the breeding stock are therefore generally undesirable, but what is required is a capacity in the progeny to acquire weight when subjected to a special method of feeding; and this is an economic characteristic which appertains to some breeds more generally than others, but is more particularly developed in a strain than is fully realised by those who have not specialised in table-poultry production. Choice is aided by theory, but depends for the greatest measure of success upon direct practical, personal experience—and experience is limited by the unknown.



MARCH - HATCHED WHITE WYANDOTTES.

[Copyright.]





### Domaine de Val-Duchesse.

Our esteemed Belgian correspondent M. Louis Vander-Snickt has been appointed Director of the Institut d'Agriculture du Domaine de Val-Duchesse, near Brussels, upon the property of M. Charles Dietrick, where it is intended to develop both land- and water-fowl, pigeons, fish, &c. We look forward to valuable results in the capable hands of M. Vander-Snickt.

### 10,000 Dollars for Poultry.

Missouri is one of the four great poultry-producing States of the American Union. It is estimated that the modest hen yielded last year nearly 45,000,000 dols. (£9,000,000) to the farmers of Missouri, two and a half times as much as the entire wheat-crop. This vast result has not been due to central action, or even to collegiate teaching, but to the enormously increasing demand for eggs and poultry, to the advocacy of extended poultry-keeping, and to farmers seeing their opportunity and taking it. It has been felt that the time has come when organisation should follow effort, and the State Legislature has appropriated 10,000 dols. per annum for a Poultry Board, whose duty shall be to promote and encourage the poultry industry by means of instruction, organisation, and dissemination of information. Mr. T. E. Quisenberry has been appointed Secretary of the Board.

### What a Town-bred Farmer Has Done.

A pamphlet of 40 pages, entitled "A Successful Poultry and Dairy Farm," comes to us from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This is the story of Mr. H. L. Blanchard, of Jefferson County, Washington State, who, thirteen years ago, gave up the law and commerce for farming, buying 80 acres in the Far West, which had to be cleared of their timber. By dint of hard work on the part of himself and his family, by combining dairying and general cultivation, and by the adoption of the best methods he has succeeded, finding, however, that the poultry section pays him best. We cannot do more at the present time than compliment Mr. Blanchard on

what he has accomplished and the authorities at Washington for publishing so interesting and suggestive a record, which cannot fail to stimulate others to like efforts. What Mr. Blanchard has done is within the power of many who possess the same grit in the United Kingdom as well as America.

### Missionary Poultry Shows.

The educative value of exhibitions has often been recognised. That is well put by *Poultry Culture*, our Kansanian contemporary :

A correctly run poultry show educates the fanciers who attend by seeing birds of others and other varieties, noting the progress that other breeders are making, meeting and exchanging ideas with each other, &c.

But that is not its widest educational field. Its widest field is mission work. It carries the gospel of more and better poultry to people who do not realise the importance of good poultry. It educates the average business man, the farmer, and the boys and girls to the beauty as well as utility of a standard-bred bird.

But this education is limited to those who pay for it—*i.e.*, for admission to the show, and our contemporary advocates free admission.

### Thirty Thousand Laying Hens.

The announcement is made that the famous Lakewood Poultry-Farm is to extend its operations, not only by extension of land at Lakewood, but by establishing a second farm of 170 acres at Eatontown, N.J., both of which will be devoted to the breeding of White Leghorns. The increased equipment will provide accommodation for 30,000 laying-hens, incubator capacity for 60,000 eggs, and brooder space for 51,500 chicks. Such should certainly be the "biggest poultry-farm on earth."

### Mr. Henry S. Ball.

Another of the New England poultry veterans has passed away—Mr. Henry S. Ball, who died at Shrewsbury, Mass., in his seventy-third year. He had been for many years prominent as a breeder and judge, and



from the accounts published, was an interesting personality.

### Mr. Anthony P. Groves.

*Farm Poultry* announces the death of Mr. A. P. Groves, of Philadelphia, and says :

He had been a member of the American Poultry Association from its earliest organisation, and most of this time represented Pennsylvania on the board of directors, so was well known to at least the older members of the Association. . . . He was a true fancier, and bred high-class fowls more for the love he had for the beautiful than for any financial gain.

### Wasteful Methods.

In a report published by the United States Department of Agriculture, Mr. H. M. Hastings states that "the enormous waste due to the actual spoiling of eggs is caused by ignorance of the correct method of caring for the product, and because the farmer and storekeeper are not financially rewarded for taking greater pains. This latter condition will continue until the present method of bartering eggs for merchandise is discontinued for some plan of buying eggs on a quality basis."

### Effect of Cold Storage on Eggs.

Some years ago an Austrian scientist stated that eggs kept in cold storage for a prolonged period developed a fungus, which accounted for their rapid deterioration when subjected to the normal temperature. An American Exchange states :

Dr. John Morris told the Medical Society of Maryland, that while eggs in cold storage do not become over-ripe in the regulation way, they are invaded by a peculiar fungus growth which can only be detected by the microscope, though it may be recognised by the taste if one is used to eating only fresh eggs. It appears like specks of mold on the yolk and the membrane lining the shell, and in this condition the egg is unwholesome food, and sure to lead to serious ailments in persons of a delicate constitution, or with weakened digestion.

### A Great Egg Centre.

It is stated that Petaluma, California, where poultry-keeping has grown to an enormous extent of late years, especially in egg-production, shipped in 1908 no fewer than 63,753,648 eggs, not to mention those retained for home consumption. Eggs are dear on the Pacific Coast. At 1s. per dozen the amount realised would be £265,640 4s., and it is improbable that any other place with the same area can show a like result. Our Special Commissioner in America intended visiting Petaluma, and we hope he may get there and tell readers how it is done.

### Mr. Franklane L. Sewell.

We regret to hear of the serious illness of Mr. F. L. Sewell, the American poultry artist. His physician has ordered a year's complete rest from work. His many friends on both sides the Atlantic will join in wishing him a speedy and complete recovery.

## NOTES FROM SCANDINAVIA.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

### Goose-Breeding in Denmark.

Goose-breeding is still prevalent to a great extent in Denmark, on the small islands and by the sea. It is mostly small farmers and fishermen who go in for this business. When the goslings are eight weeks old the country people buy a lot of them, and, after harvest, they are kept on the stubbles. During the autumn, fattening is carried out in a natural manner. Since the land is coming into cultivation more and more every year, the extent of the goose-breeding operations is gradually declining. According to the statistics of



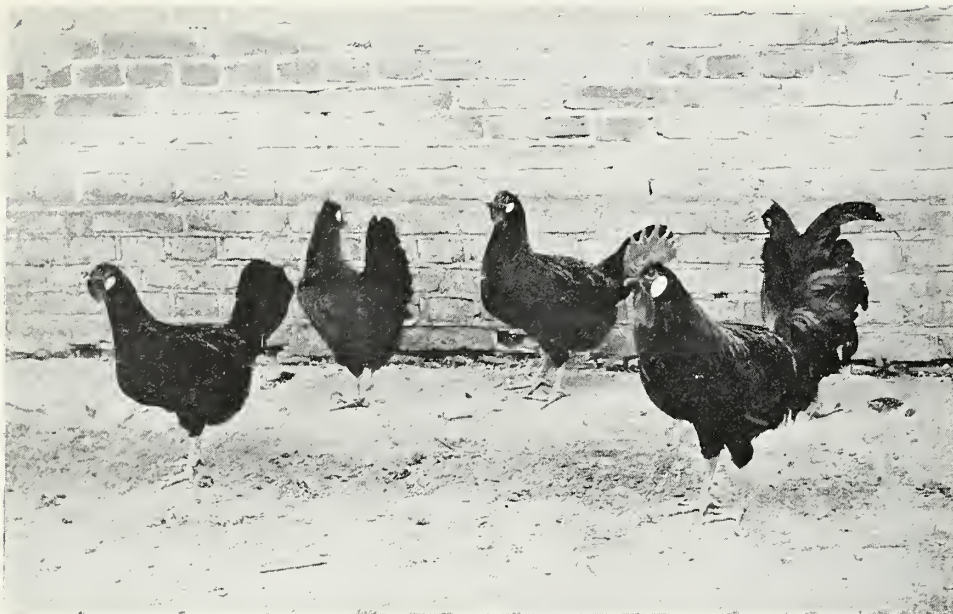
1903 there were 187,929 geese in Denmark, whereas in 1898 there were 210,900. As is the case with hens, breeding centres have been established for Embden and Toulouse geese, with a view to improving the common stock, which is mostly too small. The accompanying photograph shows a gander and goose of the Toulouse breed from one of the centres.

### Danish Black Minorcas.

The photograph on the next page was taken at a breeding centre for Black Minorcas. The birds belong to Mr. Brodsgaard, gardener at Vallö Castle, Vallö, and the breeding centre is one of those of the United Danish Poultry Societies.

The birds are more elegant in shape and smaller in size than English Minorcas, and their ear-lobes and combs are not so large. All the hens are trap-nested, and the chickens from the best hens are toe-marked. The cock in the photo is descended on the father's side from a hen which in her first year laid 217 eggs, in the second 160, and in the third 149 ; and on the mother's





A PEN OF DANISH BLACK MINORCAS.

[Copyright.]

side from a hen which laid 170 eggs in her first year and 186 in her second. The average egg-production last year for 20 one-year-old hens was 158 eggs, and that of the whole stock, 142 eggs.

#### A Poultry Show in Christiania.

Towards the end of June there was held a Scandinavian Poultry, Bee and Rabbit Exhibition in Christiania, the occasion being the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Norwegian Poultry and Bee Keepers' Society. Five

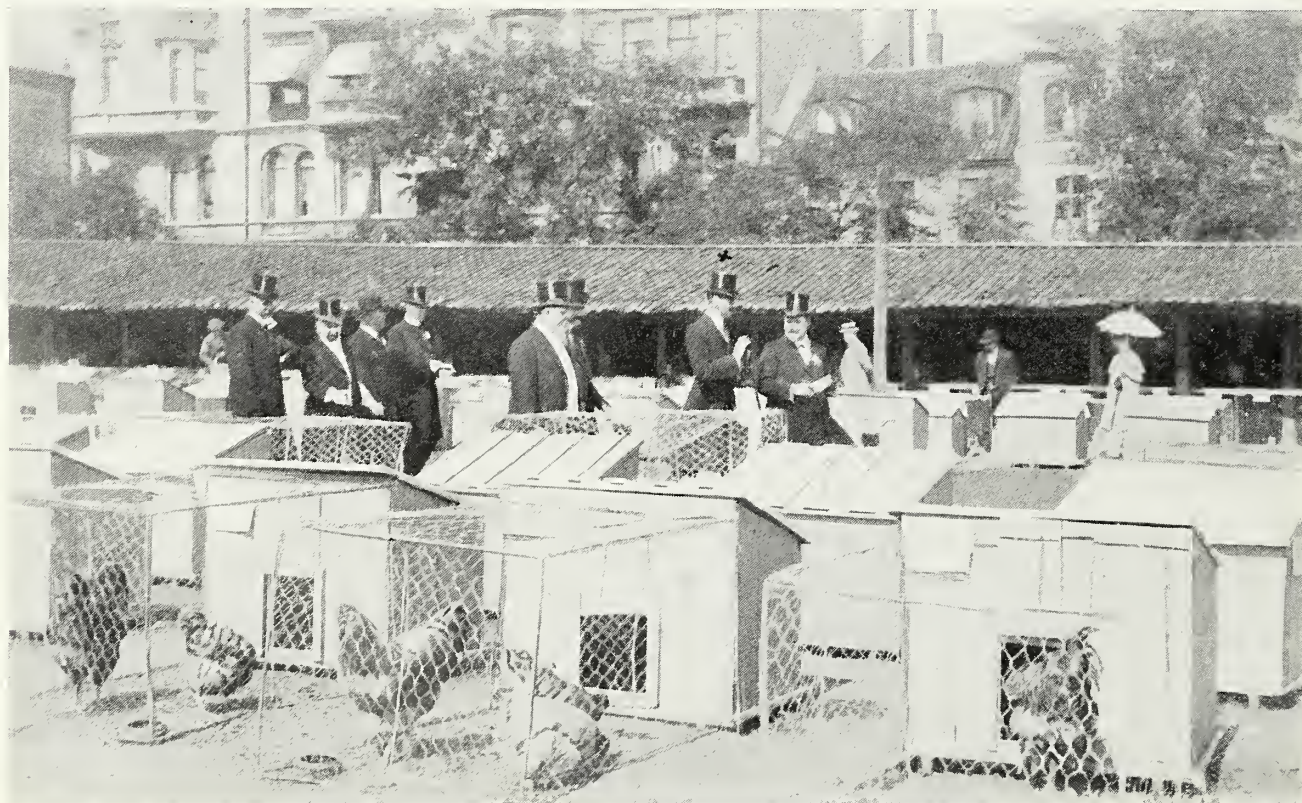
he hoped the Norwegians would endeavour to emulate the Danish example.

### ECONOMICAL POULTRY-BREEDING IN DENMARK.

By W. A. KOCK.

SINCE the year 1903 the Danish Farmers' Co-operative Egg Export Association has been giving prizes to the best economical poultry-keepers in different parts of the country. The committee of judges demand that

hundred birds of different kinds, mostly White and Brown Leghorns, Black Minorcas, Banded Plymouth Rocks, White Wyandottes, and Buff Orpingtons, were received from Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. In the photo may be seen the show cages and cases that are always used at Danish Shows. King Haakon attended the opening ceremony, accompanied by the Presidents of the Norwegian and Danish Poultry Societies. In the course of his speech His Majesty mentioned the great importance of poultry-keeping to the small farmer, and referred to the large revenue that poultry-farming brought to Denmark. The latter amounted to several millions of kroner, and



X—KING HAAKON AT THE CHRISTIANIA POULTRY SHOW.

[Copyright.]



the account must show a profit ; further, trap-nests must be used, chickens from the best hens must be toe-marked, and, finally, all must be in a good, clean condition. The judges prefer the places where only one breed is to be found.

From the report now published it will be seen that the last competition began November 1, 1907, and was closed October 31, 1908. Of 36 poultry-breeders, 29 got prizes to a value of 1,280 kroner. First prize was 115 kroner to 75 kroner ; second, 50 kroner ; and third, 25 kroner (1).

The best of the competitors, Mr. Simonsen, Nikobing, in the island of Falster, is a breeder of Brown Leghorns which look well and have a good type and colour. His poultry are running in a large yard and garden, and get plenty of fresh grass and clover. Trap-nests are used for the whole stock, and all chickens are toe-marked.

STOCK BIRDS (Breeding hens).		ONE-YEAR-OLD OFFSPRING FROM THE BEFORE-NAMED BREEDING HENS HATCHED RESPECTIVELY IN											
		Second Year of Life.				Third Year of Life.				Fourth Year of Life.			
No. 4	Laid—1st year..221 eggs	No. 31	No. 35	No. 55	No. 66	No. 72	No. 73	No. 76	No. 77	No. 118	No. 119		
2nd "	" ..173 "	195 eggs	192 eggs	142 eggs	181 eggs	84 eggs	192 eggs	156 eggs	100 eggs	212 eggs	172 eggs		
3rd "	" ..155 "	No. 67	No. 68	No. 69	No. 70	No. 79	No. 80	No. 81		No. 120			
4th "	" ..142 "	172 eggs	167 eggs	dead	169 eggs	135 eggs	146 eggs	125 eggs		45 eggs			
5th "	" ..98 "												
No. 32	Laid—1st year..215 eggs	No. 9	No. 21	No. 22	No. 38	No. 82	No. 83	No. 84	No. 85	No. 127	No. 128		
2nd "	" ..161 "	202 eggs	150 eggs	163 eggs	151 eggs	160 eggs	212 eggs	143 eggs	165 eggs	156 eggs	165 eggs		
3rd "	" ..179 "	No. 45	No. 44	No. 53	No. 54	No. 86	No. 87						
4th "	" ..101 "	159 eggs	168 eggs	149 eggs	163 eggs	139 eggs	168 eggs						
5th "	" ..110 "	No. 61	No. 71										
		168 eggs	191 eggs										
No. 36	Laid—1st year..214 eggs	No. 7	No. 8	No. 14	No. 15	No. 88	No. 89	No. 90	No. 91	No. 129	No. 130		
2nd "	" ..160 "	145 eggs	dead	151 eggs	197 eggs	135 eggs	184 eggs	104 eggs	137 eggs	175 eggs	166 eggs		
3rd "	" ..145 "					No. 93	No. 94	No. 95	No. 96				
4th "	" ..137 "	No. 57				154 eggs	140 eggs	102 eggs	134 eggs				
5th "	" ..128 "	196 eggs				No. 97	No. 98						
						137 eggs	201 eggs						
No. 12	Laid—1st year..214 eggs	No. 102	No. 103	No. 104	No. 106	No. 121	No. 122	No. 123					
2nd "	" ..148 "	156 eggs	173 eggs	115 eggs	138 eggs	165 eggs	140 eggs	193 eggs					
3rd "	" ..112 "												
4th "	" ..96 "												

In the course of the year the following feeding stuffs were used : 2,000lb. wheat, 1,586lb. oats, 1,015lb. crushed bone, 155lb. wheat bran, 20lb. crushed barley, 100lb. sunflower cakes, 3lb. barley groats, 3lb. oat groats, 50lb. oyster shell, and 10 barrels of beet (2).

From the book of genealogy it will be seen that all the cocks are bred from hens which in the first year have laid more than 200 eggs. Further, all the breeding-hens are found in the book of genealogy. (Vide the extract of control book and genealogical table.)

ACCOUNT.	Kr.
Sale of Eggs .....	275.10
Sale of Poultry .....	33.00
Poultry Used at Home .....	12.75
Sale of Eggs for Hatching .....	343.41
Sale of Fowls for Breeding.....	144.00
Different Incomes .....	22.01
Other Stock .....	44.00

Income.....	Kr.874.27
Bill of Forage .....	341.34
Different Expenses .....	34.93
Interest of Money and Part Payment...	43.00

Expenses..... Kr.419.27 (1)

Forty-five fowls produced 7,198 eggs, or 160 eggs per hen. Net profit, 455 Kr., or 9 Kr. and 29 ore each hen.

The large sale of eggs for hatching and stock birds has increased the profit considerably.

One of the most interesting second prizes was that given to a small farmer of the name of Mads Strand, Möballe, near Hovedgaard, owner of about 20 acres of land. He is a breeder of White Leghorns and some few White Wyandottes, mostly used for hatching. For these fowls there is nearly one acre of grass land. The poultry-houses, as well as the scratching-sheds and chicken-houses, are made very practically and kept clean. Artificial incubation is used. The total egg-production of 208 fowls is 24,865 eggs, or 120 eggs per hen. Net profit, 688 kroner and 45 ore, or 3 kroner and 23 ore each hen.

Lastly we will take one of the third prize-winners, H. Torgansen, Ouro, near Holbak, owner of a cottage and small holding of about five or six acres of land, where one horse and two cows and a yearling are kept.

On this place are kept only mongrels. All the cocks are either White Leghorn or Black Minorca. About one and a half acre of land is laid out for the hens, and the runs reach down to the bay, where the hens like to forage for shells, small dead fishes, &c. Trap-nests are not used here.

The production of 356 fowls is 41,911 eggs, or 118 per hen. Net profit—927 kroner 62 ore, or 2 kroner and 18 ore per hen.

The last-mentioned account shows a very good profit attained on a small holding.

(1) £1 = Kroner 18 18, 1sh. = 91 ore, 1d. = 7½ ore.

(2) 112lb. English = 101½lb. Danish.



## AN OREGON TRAP-NEST.

PROFESSOR JAMES DRYDEN, by his work at Utah in former years and more recently in the State of Oregon, has rendered great service to the poultry industry. Essentially practical are his experiments and recommendations. Some time ago he designed a trap-nest, which has been largely adopted, and in Bulletin No. 4, issued by the Oregon Agricultural College, he gives particulars of how to make it. These and the illustrations we reproduce. Professor Dryden says:

Trap-nests require considerable attention. Not every farmer can give them the necessary attention. Where possible to give a little time to it each day, the farmer will be well repaid for the labour.

And, referring to the appliance here noted, he states:

As the hen enters this nest, the weight of her body closes a door behind her, and another hen cannot enter. After the hen has laid, she is released by an attendant, her leg-band number taken and marked on the egg.

### HOW TO MAKE THE TRAP-NEST.

The trap-nest is simple in construction. It can be made by anyone who can use a saw and drive a nail. It may all be cut out of one 12in. board 10ft. long. The following is the material used:

- 1 board 1in. by 12in. by 10ft.
- 6 screw eyes No. 210 Bright.
- 2 pieces round iron 3-16in. by 12in.
- 2 pieces of rawhide 9in. by  $\frac{1}{2}$ in.

With a square, lay off the board as shown in the accompanying diagram. The shaded portions are the waste pieces of the board. The solid black lines show where the board is to be cut. When cutting the sides apart, it will be necessary to cut only as far as X, then split the boards apart, after which cut out the required angle.

After sawing the pieces, the nest is ready to be put together.

1. Nail the sides to the bottom so that the ends will be even.
2. Stand the nest on end and nail on the back. This will square the sides.
3. Stand the nest on its back and nail on the front piece.
4. Nail on the front brace, which should be set into the sides at lines indicated at A and B.
5. To the end of the bottom board nail the nest end front.
6. The two front pieces are nailed on either side of the door to the sides and the front brace.
7. Put in the piece (10 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. by 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ in.) on which the door is balanced; nail it in between the sides so that the inner side will be flush with the outer side of the front pieces. In this piece put a screw eye  $\frac{1}{4}$ in. from each side, the outer edge of the screw eye being flush with the inner side of the piece.
8. Turn the nest on its side and bore the holes in the sides through which the 3-16in. iron passes. The holes are 1in. from the bottom and 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ in. from the nest front.

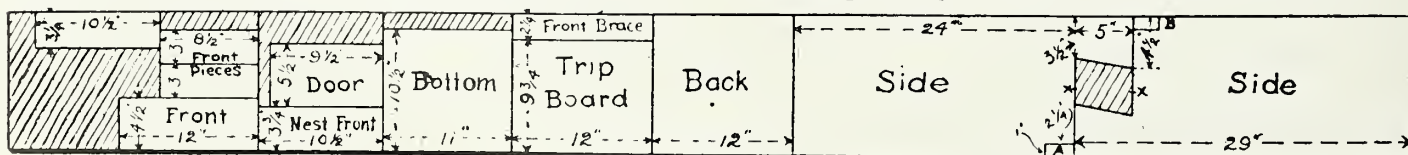
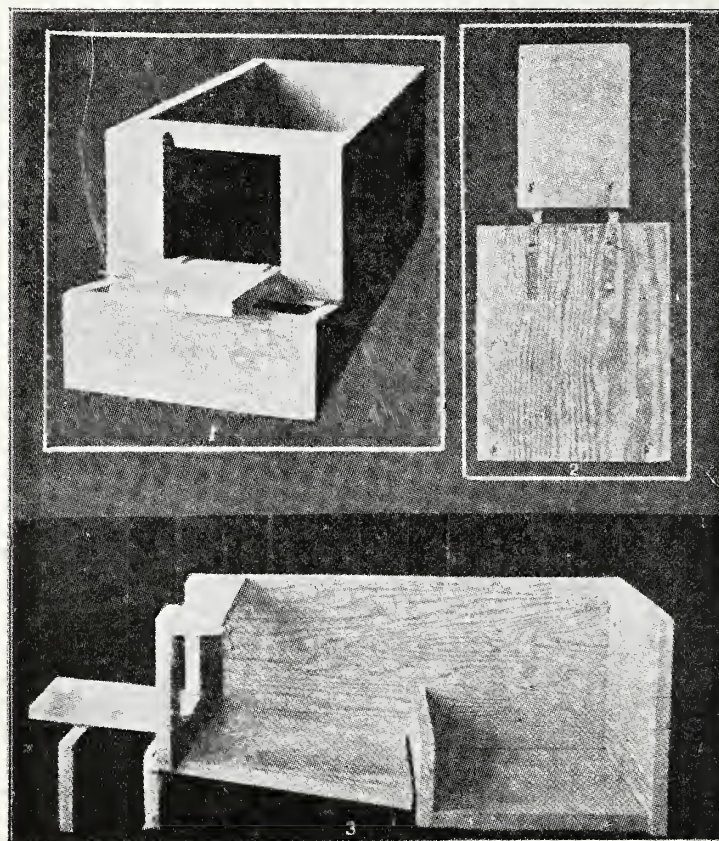


Diagram showing how to cut trapnest out of one board 1" x 12" x 10'

9. On the bottom of the trip-board put in a screw eye  $\frac{1}{4}$ in. from end and 1in. from each side. At the other end of trip-board bore two  $\frac{3}{8}$ in. holes 1in. from the end and 3in. from each side.

10. On the bottom and at each side of the door put in a screw eye 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. from the end and  $\frac{3}{4}$ in. from the sides. On the upper side tack the two rawhide strips, using a small staple or nail for each. The strips are tacked on so that the end of the strap will be 2in. from the end and  $\frac{1}{2}$ in. from side of door.

11. Place the door in front of the trip-board, the screw eyes down; push the rawhide strips through the holes in the trip-board; turn the boards over and draw the strips up tight; then bend the door back over the trip-board until there is a full  $\frac{3}{4}$ in. between the board



THE OREGON TRAP-NEST.

when laid flat; the strap should then be tacked to the lower side of the trip-board.

12. Put the door and trip-board in place. This is done by pushing the iron rods through the sides and the screw eyes. Care should be taken in placing the screw eyes in proper places; if they are not set properly the door will not balance.

The dimensions of the door and the size of the opening for the door are given for medium-sized breeds. For large breeds it will be necessary to enlarge the opening. The front brace may be raised and the front pieces made narrower. The door opening should not be large enough to admit two hens at one time.





### Transvaal Developments.

In his annual report for 1907-8, Mr. C. E. Gray, the Acting Director of Agriculture to the Transvaal Government, says :

The time has arrived, however, when the stock at the Potchefstroom Farm should be strengthened and improved by the importation of fresh blood, as we have now almost exhausted the possibilities of the Colony ; and unless we make an attempt to reinforce our stock the quality of the birds, which has hitherto been high, is likely to suffer. Evidence of the interest taken in poultry-breeding is forthcoming at almost every local show, and at some shows the competition is exceedingly keen, while the quality of the birds is excellent ; and now that the public is beginning to wake up it would be a pity to deprive them of facilities for getting birds of a good class, and to leave to private individuals the task of encouraging this most important branch of the farming industry.

The amount expended on the Poultry Division was £1,597, and in aid of Poultry Clubs £353 10s. 10d.

### Mr. D. D. Hyde Retires.

Retrenchment appears to be the order of the day in New Zealand, and among those affected is Mr. D. D. Hyde, the Chief Poultry Expert, who has wrought so hard and successfully for the poultry industry in the Colony. Commenting upon this step, the *New Zealand Poultry Journal* says :

In the scheme of retrenchment now being exercised by the Government, the poultry department, in common with other sections of the Agricultural Department, has to undergo a drastic reorganisation. The chief poultry expert has received intimation of his retirement from the service, and the news will be received with regret by his many friends throughout the Dominion. For the last ten years the industry has grown to large dimensions, and to us it appears false economy to retrench in the direction indicated. The poultry department must suffer through the loss of Mr. Hyde's services, and

after the years of faithful work accomplished in the organisation of the industry it is to be regretted that he has not an opportunity of further development in a policy that must make for success. Mr. Hyde has had to fight many battles and surmount huge difficulties. He had to fight against great odds. The class of birds upon farms to-day were not obtainable ten years ago, and poultrymen had to resort to all kinds of methods in order to bring in a new order of things. No one has worked more zealously than Mr. Hyde, and he will no doubt feel keenly his retirement now the harvests are being gathered.

### An Institution Saved.

Following upon statements made that the Burnham and Momohaki Poultry Farms were to be closed by the New Zealand Government, a deputation of poultrymen waited upon Sir Joseph Ward, the Prime Minister, to urge the retention of the first-named farm. They were gratified to learn that it was not intended to close the farm. Sir Joseph said :

Last year the surplus on the working of the Burnham Poultry Farm was £2 14s. 8d. ; the expenditure for the year was £950 17s., and the actual cash receipts, after making provision for an expenditure of £356 17s. 7d. out of revenue, was £596 14s. 1d. During the current year the farm should give decent results owing to large orders having been received for dressed poultry. There was one, perhaps there would be two poultry farms that would be closed, but there was not justification for the closing of the Burnham Farm on economical grounds.

### Is that So?

Prolificacy in egg-production is so important that anything which will help solve the many problems involved should be welcomed. A writer in the *Australian Hen* says :

Too often in nature the weak are the most prolific, a sort of protest against their physical unfitness. I have often felt this law to be the most serious drawback



against the foundation of a heavy-laying strain of fowls—and by a strain I mean a family uniform in laying excellence. There are many more points than mere capacity to shell out eggs to be taken into consideration, and the greatest of these is constitution. I have given this matter a great deal of consideration, and have come to the conclusion that most of the failures of pullets to emulate the wonderful laying of their parents is due to want of foresight in this direction. I would rather use a cockerel of unknown parentage, but overflowing with vigour, in the formation of a laying strain than the son of the greatest layer ever hatched, if he lacked in this essential. A hen shows her capacity to reproduce her like by the number of eggs she lays. A cockerel does so by his ability to fertilise those eggs, not by the record of his dam or grand-dam.

### A Duck-Laying Competition.

The Editor of the *New Zealand Poultry Journal* has broken new ground in arranging a duck-laying competition, which began on April 1, when municipal patronage in the person of the Mayor of Christchurch gave the enterprise a good start. It appears his worship knows something of poultry, for he said "that talking on poultry matters was a little out of his line. In his younger days he had been a fancier, but now everyone was talking utility, and he had failed to progress with the times." "But it is never too late to mend."

Twenty-five lots of ducks have been entered for this competition, one lot being from Australia. Of these Indian Runners account for twenty-one, there are three lots of Orpington ducks and one lot of Pekins. The runs are each 60ft. by 60ft., and each contains a portion of a continuous shelter shed 6ft. by 4ft. This is carefully roofed and the floor is high and dry. The divisions are made of 3ft. netting, the watercourse is 12ft. by 8ft., so that the ducks have 6ft. of this to each pen. Ample protection from wind and rain is provided, as there is an abundant shelter of willows and trees.

### Fattening at Guelph.

Professor W. R. Graham, in his annual report, says that from September to December 626 birds were put into the fattening-cages, of which the loss by death was only two. The birds weighed when brought in from the ranges, usually with full crops, 2,233lbs. They were fed from four days to three weeks before killing. It was hoped to have fed them all three weeks, but at times, owing to the demand for dressed chickens, they were required for killing shortly after cooping. The gain in weight was not great; still, after bleeding and plucking, they scaled 125lbs. more than when first put up, and the improvement of quality was considerable. Instead of the 8 cents a pound when in lean condition they realised 12½ cents a pound. The profit was 81.26dols., or nearly 13 cents (6½d.) each, which was very satisfactory.

### Canadian Demonstration Poultry Farm.

In order to encourage poultry-breeding in the West, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company has started a Demonstration Farm at Strathmore with 1,000 chickens. Strathmore has been selected as a centre for the pro-

visioning of the dining-cars on the Western lines, and there will thus be a good market right at hand for such produce.

### Our Correspondent in British Columbia.

Learning that Mr. Will Brown was visiting the colony, Mr. Palmer, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for British Columbia, invited him to deliver a series of lectures on Poultry-keeping, which have proved most successful. We have not received any report of these meetings from Mr. Brown, but from other correspondents, amongst whom is Mr. W. H. Dinsmore, Secretary of the Vancouver Poultry Association, accounts have reached us, stating that they were much appreciated.

### Progression in India.

Reference has been made from time to time to the efforts made for the improvement of industrial poultry-keeping in India. In Eastern Bengal and Assam the question is being taken up earnestly by the Provincial Agricultural Department. A preliminary survey has been made with a view to the adoption of methods calculated to stimulate production in accordance with the conditions of the province. *Capital*, of Calcutta, says:

As a result of the investigations already carried out, official measures for the improvement of the poultry of the Province are in the first instance to be centralised at Dacca, where alone they can, it is said, be under the necessary constant supervision. The Dacca operations are to be on the lines already adopted for the Lushai Hills, where an enthusiastic official has for some time been breeding large numbers of good English fowls, and distributing the eggs and young stock among the Lushai villages in exchange for local eggs and birds. He has also induced the villagers to destroy all local cocks, and in this way several villages are reported to possess none but English poultry, and the work is constantly extending. Similar methods are also to be pursued in the Khasi Hills, where operations have already been started at the Government Fruit Farm near Shillong. The breeds considered as likely to give best results to the ryots are the Chittagong and the Langshan from China or the Straits, and small pens of these breeds have been secured for the experiments in the Khasi Hills. It is also intended to take up the same breeds for the work at Dacca, as their special qualities are such as to make them particularly suitable for a hot, damp climate.

### A Champion Black Orpington.

At the recent Central South African Poultry Show the champion cups for the "best bird" and for the "best Colonial-bred bird" in the exhibition were awarded to a Black Orpington hen, bred by Mr. Graham Hope, of Orange Grove, Johannesburg, beating several first-grade imported specimens. Mr. Hope has bred Black Orpingtons for some years, and also Black Minorcas. Recently he has added White Orpingtons, White Wyandottes, White Leghorns, and Black Leghorns to his stock.

### Necessary Provision.

Mr. R. Cay, of the Rothbury Poultry Yards, Belleville, Cape Colony, in a lecture recently given at Cape-



town, after telling some of his experiences in poultry-farming, in which pursuit he appears to have attained considerable success, gave some sensible and practical advice to those who intended to take up the business. He said :

Unfortunately people would not take up modern methods, but stuck to the same antiquated ideas. He said that anyone entering the business should have some years of practical experience behind them, and the result would then be a paying proposition. A man must be fond of the business, be ready for hard work, and have plenty of grit. Poultry-farming was one of the hardest businesses going, and it needed a strong, healthy man to perform the duties. Intending poultry-farmers should be prepared to work for the first two years on their capital and look for profit after about three years' work. He deprecated the constant change of systems, and advocated plain feeding. It was not good to go buying a stray hen here and there, but a farmer should attempt to breed a uniform type. It made no difference whether the object was eggs or table poultry, but he thought that in the market the pure-bred birds would fetch more than cross-breds. From inquiries he had made it seemed that the demand for pure table poultry was on the increase. Dressed poultry could be sent by rail at a cheaper rate than live fowls. It behoved every man to stop and consider things before he took up the business. It was, however, not the experienced farmers that he wanted to advise, but those who were only starting.

### A Transvaal Poultry Farm.

The *Transvaal Weekly Illustrated* gives an interesting and picturesque article on Mr. Graham Hope's Poultry Farm at Orange Grove, near Johannesburg, which appears to be extensive and well designed. The breeding-pens are described as follows :

Our picture shows a long range of breeding-pens, each 75ft. by 25ft., in which are kept the fowls whose good qualities entitle them to be used for stud purposes. These pens are arranged on the excellent principle of a double run to each house, so that the fowls can be changed from one run to the other periodically, thus keeping them always on fresh ground, a most important factor in successful poultry rearing. Lucerne is grown in these runs in such large quantities that the birds are unable to eat it down, with the result that a perpetual supply of green food is before them, and there is no better green food than lucerne. Mr. Hope keeps exhibition and utility poultry, and is quite convinced that no finer climate than that of the Transvaal could be found for the successful rearing of poultry, and, basing his judgment on his own experience of nine years, is most optimistic with regard to the future of the industry. At present many people in the neighbourhood of towns are making profits from the culture of pure-bred fowls, which are kept for utility purposes and not for exhibition at shows, and it is only necessary for the farmer, with his much greater facilities, to recognise their value for South Africa to become one of the greatest egg-producing countries of the world.

### Co-operation in Victoria.

Following the example of British Columbia, the Minister of Agriculture of Victoria (Australia) has purchased a thousand copies of Mr. Edward Brown's "Report on the Poultry Industry in Denmark and Sweden," published last year by the National Poultry Organisation Society.

### Poultry Stations in South Australia.

In addition to the principal Poultry Station at the Roseworthy Agricultural College, there are three sub-stations in operation—namely, at Goolwa, in the southern section of the Colony, where, as stated in the *Journal of Agriculture*, for some unknown reason the south is not alive to the value of the poultry industry, and yet the whole of it is well suited for poultry-breeding ; at Orroroo, in the north, where its value has been very great, and where, before it was started, there were only a few fowls about the district—and mongrels at that—now, however, there are hundreds of pure-bred, good laying fowls on the farms ; and at Kybylolite, commenced last September, and serving a big district.

## NOTES FROM NATAL.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

### Exhibitions.

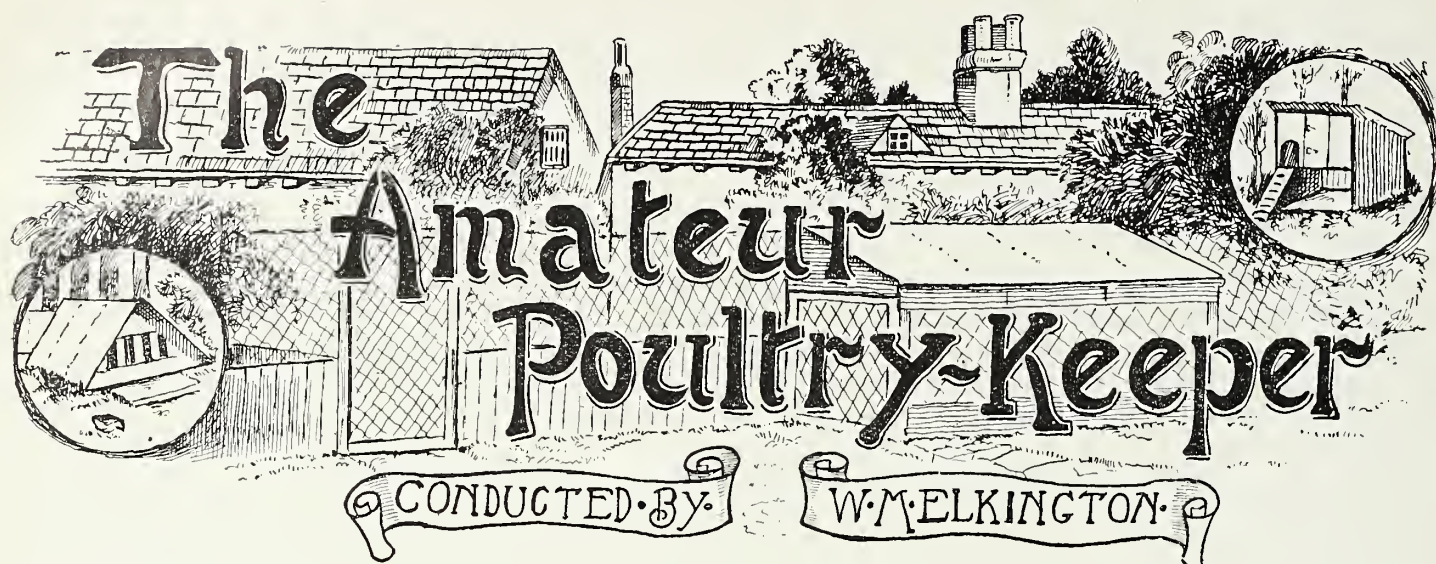
We are just in the midst of our show season, and the outstanding feature of those which have already taken place is the very high standard of exhibits, especially of Colonial-bred birds. Breeders generally have taken the lessons to be learned at previous shows to heart, and at the leading exhibitions, at any rate, there has been an almost entire disappearance of "wasters." Indeed, in most of the classes at the recent Natal Club's show at Pietermaritzburg the average quality was so high that the judges had the greatest difficulty in separating the birds. The favourite breeds on exhibition are the different varieties of Wyandottes, Leghorns, White and Brown, Black and Buff Orpingtons, Barred and White Plymouth Rocks, and Indian Games. In addition to these there is a sprinkling of most other breeds. The "leggy" type of White Leghorn is disappearing in favour of the medium type, and judges with "home" experience state that the specimens on view would quite hold their own with those exhibited at the leading English shows.

### Utility Poultry-Keeping.

I am glad to be able to say that "utility" poultry-farming is making considerable progress in the Colony, but I hope to send forward an article on the subject of Poultry in Natal at an early date, in which I shall deal with this matter. In the meantime I shall conclude by saying that, although both from the utility and the fancier's point of view we have very much to learn, still we have advanced sufficiently in the path of progress to know what birds should be, and we do not appreciate fowls that are sometimes sent out as certain prize-winners at big prices, and, when they land here, are very far from giving satisfaction. Such cases, however, we are glad to say, are not of frequent occurrence, and in most cases of importations from "reputable" breeders the importers know that they are fairly dealt with.

JAS. FLETCHER.





### The Weather and the Stock.

Until quite recently the summer of 1909 has been chiefly remarkable for its unsummerlike character, and the effect upon poultry is noticeable in more ways than one. Amateurs, who are generally fine-weather fanciers, have found it very trying, but so far as the growth of young birds is concerned wet weather certainly has its compensations. So long as the birds are properly housed and are provided with shelters in case of heavy rainstorms, it will be found that it is easier and cheaper to grow young stock in wet weather than in dry. There are more worms in the ground, and an occasional sunny day brings out myriads of flies and insects of all kinds, whereas in a dry summer, when the ground becomes baked, the birds get little animal food unless it is given to them. So much for the actual growth. But it is a different matter when it comes to the feathering. Young birds never feather so well in a wet season as in a dry one. Warmth and sunshine are apparently essential to the ripening process, as we may term it, and when those essentials are not present the birds, and especially the cockerels, linger on week after week, growing a few feathers at a time, right into the autumn. Then again, as regards early moulting, this has been a most disastrous season, for in this case also warmth and sunshine are necessary to get rid of the old dead feathers and induce new growth.

### Some Difficulties of Moulting.

I cannot help thinking that the subject of moulting, in all its ramifications, has been somewhat neglected by experts and writers, with the result that the amateur gets to know very little about the subject beyond what knowledge he picks up for himself. There can be no doubt that the weather, the food, the housing, the accommodation, and numerous local conditions all have their effect upon the process of moulting, which, though a perfectly natural operation, is often rendered more difficult for the birds by the conditions under which they are kept. I have noticed many times that birds leading a semi-wild existence upon the fields

moult easily and quickly compared with the over-domesticated creatures we keep in our small runs, and it is obvious that the conditions in the latter case cannot be favourable. Of course, such birds lack the hard condition and fitness of those kept at liberty; but many of them become excessively fat through careless feeding, and though a fat bird has a better chance of coming through the moult than a thin one, this is not the ideal condition for the process. The only way to avoid trouble with birds in small runs is to keep them healthy by means of exercise, reduce the food during the latter part of the summer until the new feathers are growing, and then give them an entire change of food, and surroundings as well, if possible, with an occasional tonic to assist the bracing process further.

### Age of Stock for Breeding.

I was reading recently in a poultry note intended for amateur consumption that young fowls invariably make the best breeders. I take it that the best breeders are those which produce the finest chickens, and the man who imagines yearlings to be the best for this purpose is a long way from the mark. You may get chickens earlier in the season from young stock, owing to many old birds being late with the moult; but if you want size and vigour you must pin your faith upon two-year-old birds, which, being ripe and thoroughly developed, are better suited for breeding purposes than youngsters that have barely finished growing. I believe that many people lose size and vigour in their strains by breeding every year from young birds, and I am sure that small eggs may be attributed in some measure to this cause. Amateurs must not, however, get mixed up with layers and breeders in this connection. I have often said that yearlings make the most profitable layers because they lay the most eggs; but two- and even three-year-old birds are the most satisfactory breeders because they produce the best chickens.

### Unrelated Cockerels.

It is a cherished tradition among poultry-keepers that an unrelated cockerel should be introduced every year



to keep up the vigour and productiveness of the flock, and so far as amateurs are concerned I do not feel justified in upsetting that tradition, though I think it might be qualified with a little more detailed advice. Vigour is a quality of great importance to the amateur, and for its sake he will do well to avoid the more intricate path of inbreeding, which the expert breeder will negotiate in safety. But when one recommends the use of unrelated cockerels one must add that these cockerels should come from a reliable source. At the best this kind of breeding is purely chance, but there is obviously more hope of improving one's stock with a cockerel from a prolific strain than with a bird picked up casually from a farmer, or cottager, who has one to spare at a low price. So long as you are introducing useful blood into your yards, you stand a reasonable chance of breeding some really good young birds ; but, on the other hand, by obtaining cockerels without knowing anything of their origin you run the risk of losing whatever useful properties your stock may already possess.

## THE AMATEUR'S GUIDE FOR SEPTEMBER.

THIS is the month when many people purchase pullets for winter laying, and an important matter of this kind deserves special consideration. Whether we buy now or later, our object invariably is to get pullets that will lay during the winter when eggs are most valuable, and I am afraid that a great many amateurs who commence with this hope fail to realise their ambition.

The great thing is to get them the right age for commencing laying about the middle or end of October. As a rule pullets are too young, but I have known people who determined to be on the safe side, and who bought birds just reddening up to lay, which very soon fell into moult, and proved of no more service until late in the winter. To explain the cause of this, I must point out that a change of scene, food, and quarters just when pullets are preparing to lay invariably has the effect of



A LANCASHIRE AMATEUR'S ANCONAS.

[Copyright.]

### Litter.

A supply of cheap litter is envied by many poultry-keepers, and in view of the approach of autumn I would like to point out the valuable character of fallen leaves for this purpose. Those of us who live in the country invariably look forward to a few dry days after the leaves have fallen to store away as much as we can accommodate, and I know several people in towns who employ boys or go themselves to open spaces in order to gather up the leaves. Oak and beech leaves are the best for this purpose.

upsetting them to such an extent that many fall into moult. This has been proved in the laying competitions, where the chief difficulty which competitors have to contend against is in selecting birds that will commence to lay at the right time and continue through the winter.

By buying cheap pullets, such as are frequently advertised, one is likely to have the unpleasant experience of not getting an egg all the winter ; and to be sure that the birds are actually what they are represented to be it is necessary to see them before buying. So many



amateurs are taken in by extravagantly worded advertisements, and buy pullets for winter laying, only to find that the birds are little more than half-grown, that I must lay particular stress upon this advice.

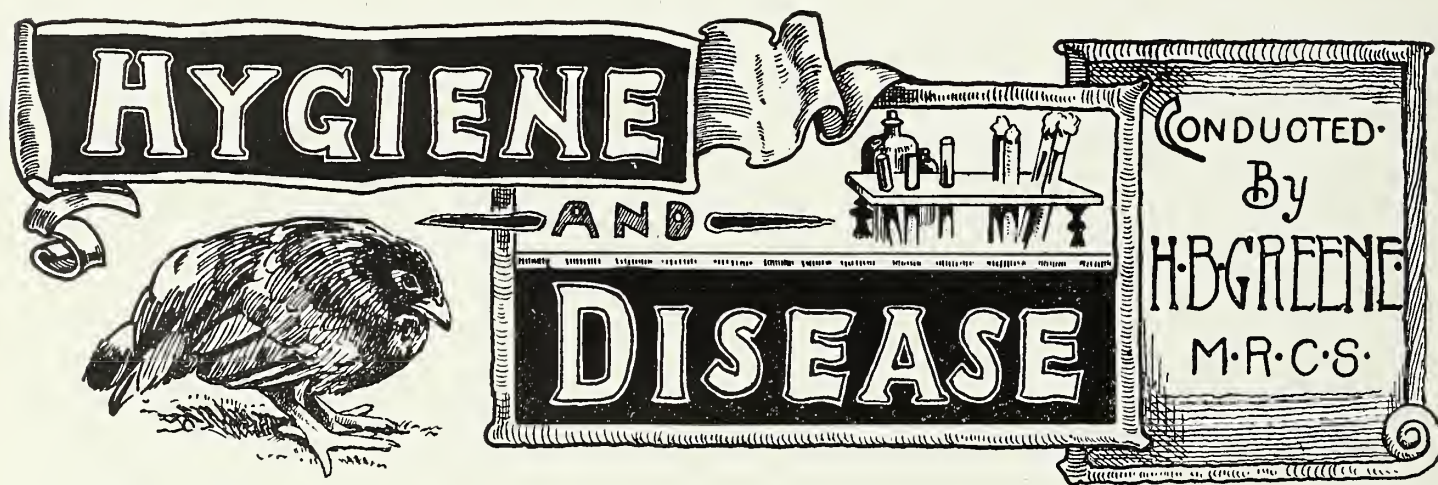
It should also be remembered that when pullets are moved to a new home their development will be checked, and they will need some little time to settle down before they ripen up for laying. Therefore, if you obtain pullets that are well grown, but have not yet commenced to redder up for laying, you will stand a very good chance of getting eggs from them before November and of keeping them laying through the winter.

The foregoing remarks apply equally to beginners and to those who wish to replenish their stock, for this is the best time of the year to commence poultry-keeping. Houses and runs should be put up, of course, before the birds are bought, and the weather is favourable for that work also.

Those who have been breeding young stock must begin to thin them out rigorously, for the best of the pullets will soon be beginning to lay, and where accommodation is limited it is bad policy to retain birds

that are not likely to pay any longer for their keep. The trouble is that many people do not know which birds will pay them. Well, in the first place, it is no use keeping a big flock of cockerels. A few birds may be retained, in view of breeding or selling, but the majority should be cleared off as early as possible, as well as any deformed or otherwise imperfect pullets. The late hatched birds are generally the chief difficulty just now, for they occupy some of the best ground. With these, however, the thinning-out process should commence, and though small, unnecessary cockerels should be killed off whenever they are well fleshed.

Amateurs as a rule have little accommodation for early breeding and few birds suitable at this time of the year. Those who have, however, might do worse than mate up a pen for breeding table chickens. I know one or two people who do this by keeping late hatched birds of last year for the purpose, but it is little use attempting the work unless one has some sheltered runs where the chickens can be reared and kept comfortable during the winter.



### POST-MORTEM EXAMINATIONS.

We have made arrangements by which post-mortem examinations of poultry and game can be effected for our readers upon the following conditions:

1. *The specimen is to be forwarded postage or carriage paid and securely packed to "Biologist," 297, Trinity-road, Wandsworth Common, London, S.W.*
2. *The fee of 2s. 6d. (slamps will not be accepted) must be remitted with each specimen and a letter giving particulars of feeding and housing, or any symptoms which were observed before death.*
3. *Birds should on no account be addressed to the office of the paper. If forwarded there they will be returned to the sender.*

It is recommended that specimens be dispatched by parcels post, where practicable, and as soon after death as possible. A reply will be received by letter, defining the disease, its cause, treatment and prevention.

### What is Pip?

A correspondent writing from Dwyka River, Cape Colony, asks for information regarding pip and its treatment. Before going into the question it is necessary to be very clear as to what is precisely meant by the term, for even in different parts of England it is applied to many various ailments in which growths and swellings of the tongue are a distinctive feature. In some districts the name is misapplied to the membranous exudations of the mouth occurring in the course of diphtheritis. In others any warty growth of the tongue, such as papilloma, is described as pip. Our correspondent, however, is more definite in applying the name to "a horny casing enveloping the tongue, preventing the fowl from eating, and thus starving it to death." Dr. Salmon believed that this peculiar condition of the tongue arises from an inflammation forming



a secretion that dries rapidly, and, in doing so, raises and hardens the outer skin of the tongue like a corn. The tenderness thus produced would naturally prevent the fowl from eating, but disinclination for food is equally common in other inflammations of the mouth. For instance, in the skin disease of poultry known as *molluscum contagiosum* slow starvation for the same reason is frequent. The late Mr. Lewis Wright was of opinion that this affection of the tongue occasionally breaks out in epidemic form, and cites three such outbreaks in different yards. For our part we are inclined to look upon pip in poultry as caused by a fermentative fungus derived from unwholesome food, such as mouldy bran or meal or milk that has turned sour. We would therefore identify it with the similar ailments met with among cattle as "brush" and in human beings as "thrush," and treat it upon similar lines. Painting the tongue first with a solution of two grains of nitrate of silver dissolved in an ounce of water, followed by a syringing of the mouth with a lotion of boracic acid (ten grains to the ounce of water) twice daily, is a local treatment which will usually be found effective. But as the soreness of the tongue interferes with feeding and often means that there are other gastric disturbances, it will be beneficial to feed the bird with a soft wholesome food to which may be added some powdered gentian or other stomachic bitter. No attempt should be made to remove the horny growth by force, although that is often advocated. To do so has no curative effect and only adds to the discomfort and soreness. Taking this view of pip, it would, we think, remove much confusion and bring the disease more into line with accepted veterinary and human pathology if the term were dropped altogether and that of "Stomatitis" substituted for it.

### To Disinfect an Earth-Run.

Certain diseases of poultry such as Klein's enteritis, tuberculosis, and some others that depend upon the presence of parasites in the digestive tract are spread rapidly by means of the excrement containing microbes, parasites, or their ova tainting the ground. No measures that comprise only the treatment and isolation of the sick birds will be of any avail in subduing the epidemic unless the healthy ones are removed to other quarters and the soiled floors thoroughly renewed and disinfected. In the case of an earth-run this is best done as follows: All feathers, straw, chaff, or other rubbish should be first raked off and burnt. The surface earth to the depth of three or four inches may then be scooped off with a spade. The disposal of this material is important. It should be removed to some corner where it will never be liable to be scratched up again and buried in quicklime. The run is then to be watered all over with a strong disinfectant liquid. A 10 per cent. solution of carbolic acid in water is suitable for many diseases, although in some a 5 per cent. solution is sufficient. After saturation, the earth is to be well sprinkled with quicklime and turned over to the depth of a spade. If ground so treated is allowed to remain unoccupied and open to sunlight for a fortnight or three weeks, and then once

more watered with disinfectant, it will after that time be ready for occupation.

### A Wet Summer.

The months of June and July were remarkable, at any rate in the home and southern counties of England, for the rainfall. There were few days without showers, and among poultry on grass runs, or kept on the colony system, ailments have been proportionately numerous. Of these the chief one has been catarrhal roup. This must not be confounded with the true roup, or, as it is termed, diphtheritis, a much more serious and virulent malady. Commencing as a thin, watery discharge from the nostrils, mouth, and eyes—and it may be even limited to one eye—the secretion if neglected rapidly becomes thicker, more purulent, and inclined to collect about the tongue and angles of the beak in yellow flakes. These differ from the chamois-leather-like exudations of diphtheria in that they are easily removable and not adherent to the tongue and throat, while the disease is not marked by the signs of prostration which accompany the graver ailment. At the same time, it is well to remember that the mucous discharge is contagious and capable of infecting several in a flock. Prompt isolation, a warm pen, syringing out the mouth and nostrils with a 20 per cent. solution of boracic acid in hot water two or three times a day, and a few small doses of carbonate of ammonia and camphor, or ipecacuanha and glycerine, will soon restore the sufferer. Neglect of early treatment results in extension of the infective secretion down the air passages, where it sets up bronchitis and pneumonia, complications that lead to many losses. Exposure to rain and wet grass runs are the predisposing causes of catarrhal roup, but preventive measures against these are, in such a rainy summer as we have experienced, by no means easy to carry out.

## TUBERCULOSIS OF FOWLS.

(From the Annual Report of the Ontario Agricultural College.)

TUBERCULOSIS may exist extensively among fowls, especially in large flocks, but seldom kills enough birds at any one time to draw the particular attention of the owner to the trouble. Many farmers say they have been losing a bird or two occasionally for a year or more, and that the loss is gradually increasing. The loss constitutes a steady drain, yet is not large enough at any one time to awaken the farmer to a realisation of what the total loss would amount to in a series of years. Nor is the loss always a gradual one. Within the last few months, two farmers have sent tubercular fowls, and each stated that he had lost about a hundred from the same disease within two years. A third said he had lost about one a week for over a year.

Tuberculosis of birds is confined mostly to fowls, although other poultry may contract the disease. Two interesting cases were examined in our laboratory last year in wild geese which had been kept for some time



in captivity. Both were found to be badly affected with tuberculosis, and we transmitted the disease from these cases to chickens. Pheasants, turkeys, and pigeons may be affected. Authorities differ in their opinion as to the susceptibility of ducks. Singing birds in captivity are said to be highly susceptible.

**SYMPTOMS.**—There is no noticeable symptom of tubercular infection until the disease has progressed far enough to cause emaciation, which is nearly always present, and which in advanced cases is extreme. Pernot, of the Oregon Experiment Station, described a case in which a Plymouth Rock hen originally weighing 4lbs. was reduced in weight to 22ozs. The comb and wattles and skin about the head usually become pale. Emaciation is usually accompanied by lameness, and there is nearly always a persistent diarrhoea, the faeces appearing yellowish or greenish white. In the latter stages of the disease the feathers become ruffled, and the fowls are weak, more or less mopy, and move about but little. The eyes are bright in most cases until death is near. The appetite is good throughout the sickness, and the fowls often eat ravenously until a few days before death.

**SPREAD OF TUBERCULOSIS.**—Tuberculosis is caused by a minute bacterial organism, *Bacillus tuberculosis* of birds. The bacteria gain entrance to certain portions of the body and multiply there, causing the formation of the nodules or tubercles seen on autopsy. The spread of the disease occurs when the bacteria are transferred directly or indirectly from the affected birds to the healthy ones.

We have made microscopic examinations of the droppings in a number of cases and found the tubercle bacteria present. The droppings of tubercular fowls must, therefore, be regarded as one of the most important sources of infection of the healthy stock. The common farm practice of feeding from the ground or in low dishes or troughs, furnishes ample opportunity for the food to become fouled with faeces, and one or two sick birds passing tubercle bacteria might easily serve to infect a large percentage of a flock. Although sunlight is rapidly fatal to this germ, it does not have opportunity to act freely on all infectious material. Indoors the bacteria may remain alive and dangerous for many weeks, and may infect the healthy birds. There is always the possibility also of carrying infected faeces on the feet to food outside the chicken-house. Another dangerous practice, all too frequent, is that of leaving carcasses of birds that have died of tuberculosis to be eaten by the hogs or chickens.

**THE CONTROL OF TUBERCULOSIS IN FOWLS.**—There is no cure for tuberculosis in fowls, and attempted treatment is a waste of time and money expended for so-called remedies. The only course open is to adopt measures for eradicating the disease from flocks already infected, and for preventing future infection.

**ERADICATION.**—The quickest and most effective

method of eradicating the disease is to destroy all the fowls, and thoroughly disinfect the premises. In small flocks known to be infected with tuberculosis this measure is advisable. In larger flocks, or when it is desired to preserve a certain strain in breeding, less drastic measures may be adopted with final satisfactory results. There is no known test to determine the presence of the disease until it has progressed so far as to cause lameness or emaciation. Ward, of California, has shown that tuberculin is of no value as a diagnostic agent for tuberculosis of fowls. There is good reason to believe that birds may be discharging the germs in the droppings, although the disease may not be far enough advanced to show noticeable symptoms. Hence all individuals of the flock must be regarded as dangerous to those free from disease, and the latter should be kept separate. All fowls suspected of having the disease should be slaughtered and the carcasses completely burned. Roosts, houses, &c., should be disinfected frequently. Inasmuch as affected birds may be continually distributing the bacteria in their faeces, an occasional disinfection will be insufficient. No feed should be given the fowls on the ground. Feeding dishes or troughs should be frequently scalded with boiling water. It is not believed that this disease is transmitted through the egg. Hence if the young chicks are placed on ground not previously inhabited by the old stock, the chances are very favourable for rearing them free from tuberculosis. Care should be observed in purchasing new birds that they come from flocks which are free from disease. Experience on some of the large poultry-ranches of California has shown that the transfer of laying hens is an important factor in the transmission of the disease. Poultry-raisers should, as far as possible, raise their own stock.

**DISINFECTION.**—The first thing to do in putting the poultry premises in sanitary condition is to scrape the roosts, walls, floors, and nests thoroughly clean. This loose rubbish, together with loose boards, &c., should be completely burned. When this has been done, the entire place should be whitewashed, with lime-water—crude carbolic acid—solution, in the proportion of twenty gallons of lime-water to one gallon of crude carbolic acid. Unslaked lime should be used mixed with enough water to give it the consistency of thin cream, and the carbolic acid then added. This mixture may be sprayed on or put on with a brush, due care being observed to see that every particle of surface in the poultry-house is well covered. Coal tar disinfectants may be used alone in place of the above mixture, but they are more expensive and no more effective. After disinfection, clean boards may be placed beneath the roosts to catch the droppings, thus facilitating the work in future cleaning. Slaked lime placed on these boards will absorb the moisture from the droppings and will add to their fertilising value.

The yards should be kept as clean as possible and free from loose boards and all unnecessary litter of any kind.





### Another Grant.

Minnesota has not done so much in poultry as some of the other States, but it is announced that the Legislature has sanctioned the spending of 5,000 dols. for the purpose of giving instruction in poultry-keeping. The fund is to be used under the direction of the Board of Regents at the Farm School, St. Anthony's Park. The sum is not a large one, but an excellent beginning.

### When Fertility Commences.

This is an important question which has never been fully determined, and results obtained are very variable. *Monthly Hints on Poultry* records an experiment by Mr. A. J. Odam, at the L'angammarch Wells Poultry Farm, in which it was found that with an Indian Game cock mated with Buff Orpington hens, on May 3, one egg laid three days after mating was fertile, and that there were four eggs on the fourth day, from which chickens were hatched. It was not until the eleventh day that all the eggs laid were vitalised. The experiment is being continued at other seasons, the results of which should be very valuable.

### Use of Skim Milk.

Experiments in the use of skim milk for growing chicks have been made in Kansas. Forty chicks were divided into two equal lots, and were treated alike except that one lot was supplied with skim milk and the other was not. At the expiry of six weeks it was found that the former had gained 330oz. and the latter 124oz. This confirms a previous experiment in which the milk-fed chickens gained 355½oz. and the non-milk 192½oz. The cost with milk was higher per bird, but in respect to weight gained much less.

### Geneva Experiment Station.

The New York Experiment Station at Geneva bears an excellent record for its work, and the completion of twenty-five years since its establishment has been celebrated by the publication of a most valuable *résumé* of the experiments carried out. The section devoted to poultry, which has always received a considerable share of attention, is by Mr. W. P. Wheeler. The record is a

very valuable one, dealing with many problems presenting themselves to the poultry-keeper.

### Is the Mendel Law of Practical Value?

Whatever may be the ultimate use of Mendelism to the breeder of pure-bred stock, and that has yet to be determined, up to the present evidence is wanting that it is likely to yield satisfactory results in respect to egg and meat production. This is evidently the view of *Farm Poultry*, which says:

The truth (as we see it) is that the Mendelian experiments with poultry, using conspicuous or odd characters as best suited to the demonstrations undertaken, are not carried far enough to be convincing to poultry-breeders. As already stated, to the expert poultry-breeder the Mendelian investigator has shown himself so much a novice in discriminating classification of his results that the poultryman does not take the other man and his work as seriously as he ought to. If these principles do apply in general poultry-breeding, the best practical demonstration of the fact would be a little practical work. That may come in time, but we fear not, for—frankly—we believe, and we think the scientists are shrewd enough to foresee, that nothing would so quickly reduce this over-inflated *ism* to its true proportions as to put it in form to which practical men could apply their standard measurements.

If we are wrong about practical applications of Mendelian theories (or about anything else), we want to be set right. If anyone, anywhere, has applied these principles in practical breeding operations, either for fancy or utility, with sufficient numbers of birds to make his work important, and with results that indicate the principles are valuable as everyday working principles, we want to tell our readers all about it. As at present informed, we have known nothing else (in a long acquaintance with poultrymen and matters) put forward so confidently, on high authority, with so little actual test.

### Educational Exhibits.

At the Royal Lancashire a very interesting display was made of poultry from the Lancashire County Council Farm at Hatton. This included live and dressed fowls of the usual table breeds, showing the results of different crosses. Eggs from the various breeds of poultry kept on the farm were displayed, with egg-boxes of various designs. The trussing competition for students awakened a large amount of interest.



## POULTRY DEMONSTRATIONS AT BEVERLEY.

FOLLOWING up their success at Halifax last year, the Great Yorkshire Show arranged for further demonstrations at Beverley on August 10, 11, and 12. The demonstrations were held in a capital shed, with plenty of seating accommodation, and if the large crowds that gathered up at the stated times for the demonstrations to commence were an indication of the interest, then undoubtedly they were one of the most attractive features of the show.

The lecturer and demonstrator, Mr. Fred W. Parton, of the Leeds University, stated at the commencement that while the production of eggs was the branch of poultry-keeping of greatest importance in Yorkshire, the preparation of table poultry was much neglected, and improved methods were undoubtedly necessary if the Yorkshire fowls were ever to obtain a footing for their quality in the leading English markets. The lecturer fully explained the Surrey and Sussex methods of fattening and shaping, and practically illustrated the advantage of fattening by displaying some excellent specimens which had been crammed at a fattening establishment in Yorkshire, where the Sussex principle is carried out. The demonstrations in dressing and trussing and boning chickens were watched with intense interest by large crowds, every movement of the various operations being carefully followed.

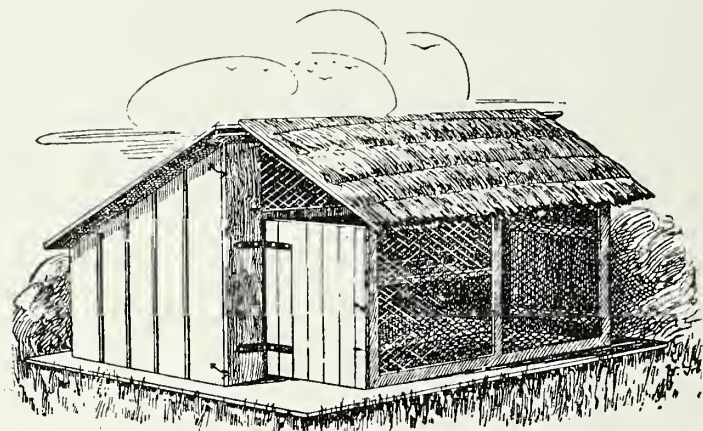
Mr. Parton gave a short address on the importance of selecting breeds most suitable for the East Riding of Yorkshire, where conditions vary considerably. He also gave some useful hints on the qualities of hens which should be sought after, be they for egg or flesh production. In dealing with eggs, the importance of a regular supply all the year round was pressed home very emphatically, and the items were enumerated in the management of poultry, which assist materially in the winter egg supply. He gave also such useful information as the time of year to hatch out chickens and the breeds best adapted for this purpose.

Altogether the lectures and demonstrations were highly instructive, and of educational value, and it is to be hoped that other county shows may see their way to introduce something of the same nature. Not the least interesting display was a pair of Capons—Faverolles and Buff Orpington—and two Cockerels of the same breed and age, reared under similar conditions; the average weights being Capons, 5lb. 9oz.; Cockerels, 3lb. 15oz. The showing of the live birds was a great attraction.

## A GERMAN POULTRY-HOUSE.

THE scratching-shed of which we give an illustration is a model which might well be copied by poultry-keepers in this country. The following brief description will indicate its chief features: It is 11ft. square, 7ft. high in front, and 5ft. high at the back. The framework is substantial, and the walls and roof are timber-built, but the latter is also covered with thatch. The greater

portion of the front is wire-netted, but a shutter one-half the size of the opening protects the inmates from rain or snow. The roosting-chamber is situated at the back, and as it is raised above the floor it does not take away from the scratching area. This chamber is 28in. wide, and runs the whole length of the shed. During inclement weather canvas shutters can be used to give



further protection. From this roosting-place there is a "bolting-wire" leading into the laying section, and again a further door leads into what is termed the "control-room." By such an arrangement it is possible to trap-nest the flock as a whole, but one is not able to obtain individual records. Herr Inspector Keiser, of the Wiesbaden Kammer, considers that as this form of house is used by the smaller farming class, it would be inadvisable to suggest their working with the usual type of individual trap-nest. Such a house is designed to accommodate thirty to forty birds, and the cost in Germany is about £10.

## EARTH SALTS: AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN FEEDING.

MR. CHAS. A. CYPHERS is an ardent experimenter. His attempts to solve the problem of rearing chickens profitably on a large scale have shown that there is a missing link. That is his object to discover. In Bulletin No. 2 of the Model Poultry Company (Buffalo, N.Y.) he wisely says:

A flock of thrifty chicks, brooded by a hen or by an artificial mother, located on a plot of fresh, green grass in the spring, is a delight to the eye of the chicken-man, whether he be market poultryman or fancier. On the other hand, the winter brood, raised under purely artificial conditions, presents many cases of malnutrition that try the soul of even the most experienced poultryman. The chicks that are raised during the natural breeding season, on a run where vegetation abounds with its accompanying insect life, grow and thrive. Chicks that are raised on barren soil, or on overused runs, or in artificial winter quarters suffer in health owing to a lack in our available feeding-stuffs. What it was no one was able to say. Some important element has been overlooked. There has been a missing link.

After dealing with various aspects of feeding and



nutrition, showing the importance of earth salts, he continues :

Nutrum salts are the inorganic salts that the birds get in abundance in the natural state, but which our grain foods lack, and our meat- and bone-meals do not supply in kind or quantity. These are the bone and tissue builders, out of which the digestive juices are formed. They are contained in roots, forage, and dry grass in sufficient quantity for the needs of animals of large intake, but are altogether insufficient for the needs of the baby chick, with its limited intake and powers of digestion. Moreover, the chick is capable of developing faster for its initial weight than any other farm animal, and my experimental laboratory tests show that in consequence it requires a larger percentage of earth salts in its foods than other farm animals. In the past it has been getting the least. The following brief description of the function of the earth salts, an insufficiency of which has occurred in artificial chick feeding, will give some idea of why we had so many cases of malnutrition :

Calcium fluoride works with albumen in making the elastic fibre of all the muscular tissue, skin, connective tissue, and vascular walls.

Calcium phosphate is the great bone cell-salt, and is absolutely essential to the proper growth and nutrition of the animal body. This salt is found in the blood plasma and corpuscles, saliva, gastric juice, bones, and connective tissue. It has a special chemical affinity for albumen, which is rendered non-functional when a deficiency of calcium phosphate occurs.

Calcium sulphate is used by the liver to destroy the worn-out blood corpuscles by taking away their water, while their remnants are excreted through the biliary action. If there is not enough calcium sulphate present the blood soon becomes loaded with useless cells.

Phosphate of iron has an affinity for oxygen, which it absorbs from the inspired air and carries to all parts of the body in the circulation of the blood, the colouring matter of which it forms. Health cannot be maintained without a proper balance of iron phosphate in the blood.

Potassium chloride works with albumen to create fibrine. Fibrine is used in every tissue of the organism except bone.

Potassium phosphate is the great nerve builder, and is a constituent of all animal fluids and tissues, particularly of the nerves, muscles, and blood-cells. In fact, it is indispensable in the formation of tissue.

Potassium sulphate is a carrier of oxygen, as well as of organic material to the cells of the skin. It is found in the cells and in the intercellular fluids, muscles, nerves, epithelium, and in the blood corpuscles. It is the carrier of oxygen. The oxygen taken up by the iron contained in the blood corpuscles is carried to every cell of the organism by the reciprocal action of potassium sulphate and iron. A lack causes chilliness, sleepiness, and inaction.

Magnesium phosphate is chiefly confined in its work to the delicate white nerve-fibre of the nerves and muscles, it using albumen and water to form the transparent fluid which nourishes these white threads or fibres.

Sodium chloride (common salt) works with water and properly distributes it through the organism. The body contains more of this cell-salt than any other, except the phosphate of lime.

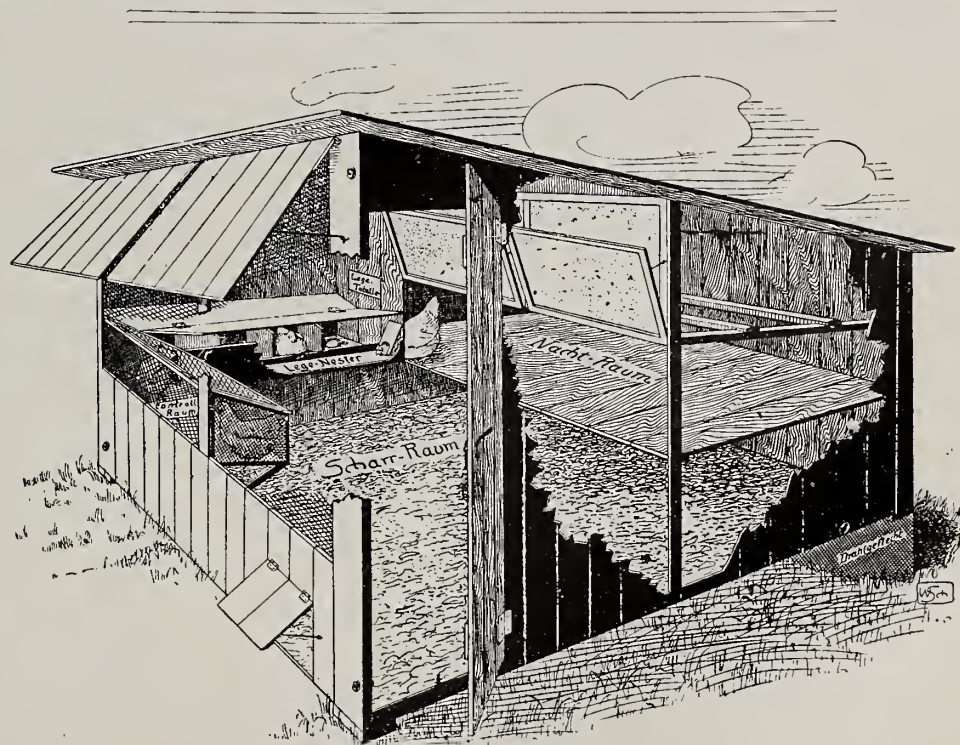
Sodium phosphate splits up lactic acid into carbonic acid and water, and throws it off through the lungs. It has an affinity for sugar, and assists in eliminating any excess from the blood. A lack of proper balance will allow ferments to arise and retard digestion.

Sodium sulphate is found in the intercellular fluids, and its principal office is to regulate the quantity of water in the tissues, blood, and fluids of the body. It has an affinity for water to the extent that it eliminates the excess from the blood and blood serums. It also works with the bile, and keeps it in a normal consistency.

Silica. This salt works with albumen and fibrine.

Thus it will be seen that each of these inorganic cell-salts has its particular functions, and that if any of them are lacking the organisms will suffer. Even under apparently natural conditions the chick may suffer from lack of one or more of these salts in the soil or in the available forage. If this is the case, how much more must they suffer when confined to a brooder-floor and well-used runs of the modern brooder-house.

Whether both Mr. Devonshire and others in South Africa and Mr. Cyphers have equally found a solution remains to be seen.



### A GERMAN BROODER.

DESIGNED by Herr H. Lieber, of Rüdesheim, Germany, the heating apparatus of this brooder combines both the hot water and the hot air principles. The special features are efficient ventilation, with the ingoing air slightly warmed, extra heat by radiation, briquets used instead of petroleum for the maintenance of heat, thus reducing the cost from twopence-halfpenny per day to one halfpenny per day.



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## BIBLIOGRAPHY OF POULTRY.

COMPILED BY EDWARD BROWN, F.L.S.

*Compiler's Note.*—With the object of securing as complete a list as possible of Poultry Books, it is proposed to give from time to time particulars as to such as are known. My own library embraces nearly 350 volumes on this subject, but there must be many not contained therein. I beg respectfully to request the kindly co-operation of owners of books not named, with a view to making the list exhaustive. In sending particulars I request that the following be stated: (1) Full title, and sub-title, if any; (2) Author's complete name, with any information respecting the writer; (3) Place of publication and name of publisher; (4) Date of publication, if given; (5) Number of edition; (6) Number of pages and size of book; (7) If illustrated; and (8) Whether in paper or cloth. Acknowledgment will be made of source of information. The books marked with an asterisk I have not been able to verify, and fuller details will be welcome both as to books and authors.

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(To be continued.)



## NOTES FROM CORRESPONDENTS.

### IRISH NOTES.

By PERCY A. FRANCIS.

THE County Antrim Agricultural Show at Ballymena was a huge success. The grounds are capacious, well equipped, and beautifully situated near Slemish Mountain, and the crowd filled them to overflowing.

Amongst the visitors to the poultry section were Mr. J. S. F. McCance, vice-chairman of the Antrim County Council, and Mr. Harold Barbour, C.C., both of whom take a lively interest in poultry-keeping in public as well as in private life. Mr. McCance keeps a flock of good Buff Orpingtons for utility purposes on his place at Dunmurry, whilst as chairman of the County Committee of Agriculture he has been the moving spirit in working the Poultry Improvement Scheme of the Irish Department of Agriculture in County Antrim for the past eight years. He has also for some time provided special classes at the Ballymena Show for birds owned by farmers and cottiers, hatched from eggs obtained at the County Council Farm at Cullybackey. At the recent show there were thirty-six competitors for these prizes.

Mr. Barbour is well known as one of the keenest co-operators in Ireland, and is specially interested in co-operation as applied to the poultry industry. Deroock, with an annual turnover of £6,000, and Cloughmills, with £4,000, are two examples of co-operative poultry societies in the North of Ireland. Mr. Barbour is just now carrying out a private experiment in egg-recording at his residence at Strathearne, near Lisburn.

The poultry entries numbered 329, and the quality from a fancier's point of view was excellent. Mr. John Galway, of Dundonald, won first, second, and third in Buff Orpington cocks. His brother, Mr. James Galway, won first in Buff hens. Mr. Sam Poog, of The Drough, Larne, obtained the first and cup with one of the best White Leghorn cocks out at present.

It is remarkable how many of the exhibitors are farmers. This undoubtedly shows an increasing interest in poultry-keeping on the part of agriculturists, and as an indication of such is very satisfactory. It is much to be regretted, however, that the charms of breeding fancy poultry should lead farmers or cottagers away from the path of utility poultry-keeping. The latter, generally speaking, is the broad path of prosperity for these members of the community, whilst the "fancy" is for them a road full of stumbling-blocks and financial loss.

Yet the farmer is not so much to blame when he commences the attempt to breed exhibition birds. He sees them in all their glory at agricultural shows promoted for agricultural interests, and this awakens his mind to the subject. So far so good! But he forgets that the points on which the prizes are awarded to these birds have, with few exceptions, absolutely no utility value, and he starts breeding operations with these prize-

winners as his guide. Egg-laying strains, with their usual small size and lack of fancy points, are ignored entirely. Instead, colour, lobe, comb, style—especially colour—and so on *ad lib.* to disaster and disgust, and the final reversion to the former idea, now tenfold strengthened, that poultry-keeping does not pay. Only in the poultry industry does this danger exist. In the main, at least, exhibition horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs are judged on utility lines, and points which are desirable in the ordinary farmer's stock are made the objective of the breeder's skill.

How different the relation between the aim of the fancier's efforts and that of the farm poultry-keeper! What use a White Wyandotte hen with a yellow tinge in her plumage, even though she can lay 200 eggs in the year? Away with her! What value the little White Leghorn hen that laid 220 eggs last year? Cut her throat! She has a small lobe, and her comb hangs badly. And so the farmer goes astray, for what bearing in the wide world have the majority of fancy points on the egg-basket? Fortunately, the importance of laying qualities in Irish poultry is now receiving more attention, but for years the trap-nested strains which the writer pedigree-bred season after season at Cullybackey were frequently ignored because they had not the desirable fancy points, and it is only comparatively recently that the value of such strains to utility poultry-keepers has become generally realised.

The Premium Egg Stations which are now so numerous over Ireland form valuable centres, not only for the sale of hatching eggs of improved strains of poultry to farmers and cottagers, but also for the dissemination of much useful information and advice. When going to the station for the eggs the visitor has an opportunity of seeing a good portable house, perhaps an incubator and foster-mother, and of learning the methods of feeding, &c., adopted by the station-holder under the direction of the county instructor. Leaflets, too, published by the Irish Department of Agriculture on various poultry topics are obtainable there, and so the education and assistance of the distant country poultry-keeper goes on. The fact alone that these stations form sources from which poultry stocks can be renewed free from the evils attendant on breeding from weakly, diseased, and related birds, so common on many farms, is quite sufficient justification for their existence. Twelve of these egg-stations are established in County Antrim in addition to the Model Farm at Cullybackey, and the demand in general far exceeds the supply.

By MISS MURPHY.

AT the trussing competition held at Skibbreen Show, all the prizes were carried off by pupils trained at Miss T. R. Kildahl's classes. The work was very well



done considering the short duration of the courses given. These competitions have become very popular, and are now quite a feature of the shows.

The cold, wet weather of early summer has given place to scorching heat, and the chickens will in consequence soon be brought to a standstill. Eggs are fairly plentiful, and have maintained a better price than in previous years. I notice the actual prices obtained are invariably higher than the quotations for Irish eggs in the I.P.R.

A very interesting question was raised in the I.P.R. as to whether it pays to fatten chickens for the London market, and in my opinion the matter is placed beyond doubt if the fatters, who buy so many thousands of Irish chickens, are able to make a profit on their re-sale as fat birds. As this trade in lean chickens has been going on for very many years, and is increasing in volume, it is reasonable to suppose that there must be some money in it. Profit cannot be so high just at present owing to the high price of food, but prices have been satisfactory, and no branch of agricultural produce maintains such an even value, especially for the higher grades.

The Royal Dublin Society has made sweeping changes in its 1909 poultry schedule, and it now remains for the utility poultry-breeders to show their appreciation of the efforts made to cater for their wants. The Royal Dublin Society Show has never been a really representative one, most of the birds being English or the property of a few fanciers and dealers in Ireland. To the rank and file of the utility poultry-keepers of the country it was a dead letter. The utility people now have it in their own hands to make the fixture such a success that there may never again be a question of its disappearance from the list of Irish shows. In the new and generous classification there is room for all.

Miss Walker has been appointed manager of the poultry department at the Eccles Hotel, Glengariff. There is not a more suitable place in Ireland for poultry-culture, as really severe weather is very rare there and snow almost unknown. The mean annual temperature is 52.0 F., which is higher than that of Ventnor. The poultry are kept solely to supply the hotel, which is a favourite tourist resort.

I have heard very good accounts of some of the egg-stations this season, and, although no figures are yet available, I think the number of eggs distributed will far exceed that of last year. One station-holder distributed 110 dozen eggs from thirty Light Sussex hens, which is very good for such a fine table breed. The period of distribution lasts from December 1 to May 31, and every station-holder who distributes seventy sittings is entitled to a premium of £5, so that a handsome profit is made upon the birds.

Some of the more progressive of the instructors are introducing trap-nests on their best stations, so in a few years some very excellent utility strains should be available. I may here remark that really good trap-nests that are infallibly accurate and easily kept in repair are difficult to find. Some are too costly, others too intricate, and others again fail to trap the bird on every

occasion. The Danish pattern of nest, illustrated in Mr. Brown's book on Sweden and Norway, is one of the simplest and best.

Chickens are looking well, and some are already laying. A Red Sussex pullet, hatched January 12, produced her first egg on June 13, and the following week was placed first in a class for Sussex of any colour. She is now owned by Mr. Twamley, a keen fancier.

When erecting wire-netting fences for poultry, any small bits of wire should be most carefully swept up. Twice during this month I have found pieces of wire in the gizzards of cockerels, death being in both cases due to perforation and consequent peritonitis.

Miss K. Moran, Instructor in Dairying for Queen's County, has passed the examination held by the Department of Agriculture in Poultry-keeping, and is now qualified to act as Instructor on that subject. Miss Moran received her training at Reading and Cullybackey, having just completed a second course at the latter place under Miss Ada Nedwill (formerly Instructor in Dairying for County Tipperary), who was temporarily in charge there.

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## WELSH NOTES.

By A. T. JOHNSON.

IT is a pity that such dreadful weather marred the first events in the summer show season, which is always looked forward to with such interest by exhibitors who confine their patronage to the Principality. Both at Llandudno and Colwyn Bay a splendid entry and bright prospects were destroyed by the wrecking of the tents, and the executive of the former show—quite the largest and best ever held in North Wales—will, we fear, suffer considerable financial loss. The practice of running several shows on the August Bank Holiday again proved disastrous this year, so far as entries were concerned. There are too many small summer shows in Wales as it is, and when several of these, within easy distance of one another, make a struggle for the same date the result is inevitable. Then, again, the fact that at many of these events nearly all the prizes go to outside exhibitors of the professional kind makes a shortage of entries a foregone conclusion. Would not the "objects" of several of these rural societies be more fully realised if greater facilities were given to the beginners and amateurs, who cannot be expected to exhibit against inevitable loss?

An exceptionally wet and cold July had a depressing effect upon the trade in poultry and eggs, which is generally at its best when the holiday-making visitors have arrived; but August opened with such beautiful weather that it seemed as though any loss sustained in the previous month would soon be recompensed. Table chickens are, at the time of writing, still too plentiful, however, from the producer's point of view, but eggs are steadily increasing in value. There is always the same old outcry in summer in Wales regarding the scarcity



of reliable eggs, and it is likely to continue until more people realise the desirability of getting pullets that will come into profit in July or August. Much might be done also in the way of keeping the old hens laying, and so deferring the moult until much later.

The average Welsh farmer seldom allows the poultry to take advantage of the stubble, which will bring birds on to lay sooner than most things, and the "stubble goose" is almost unknown to him. It is past one's comprehension why he does not turn his goslings on to the stubble, feeding them a little if need be, and market them towards the middle of this month, when he could get a sale at his very doors and a substantial profit. It is all very well keeping the flocks on to Christmas when circumstances justify one's doing so; but how often do they? The system of using hens for incubating the goose eggs, now coming more into vogue, is having the effect of increasing the production of goslings, but turkey-rearing does not appear to go ahead one little bit. Yet the country is eminently suited for turkeys all the year round, and the market is good. One cannot help feeling, too, especially at this season, when the demand is so great, that duck-rearing for market might be much extended. At present it is largely confined to certain areas—central Anglesey, for example—which are nearly all some distance from the consumers. In a large proportion of the flocks of geese and ducks seen in Wales to-day there are unmistakable indications that an introduction of fresh blood is badly wanted.

## SOUTH WALES NOTES.

By T. R. EVANS.

SO far as this district is concerned the practice of withholding prizes has been a growing one during the past couple of seasons, as quite a number of the smaller fixtures last season withheld prizes on rather a large scale, and thereby caused a great deal of annoyance to exhibitors. I heard a number of fanciers express themselves rather strongly on the matter, and many went so far as to say that they would not exhibit in future unless full prize-money were guaranteed. It therefore behoves show committees to give this matter their serious consideration, and to state distinctly in their schedules what they intend to do in case of a scarcity of entries. I know that in many cases nothing has been mentioned in the rules *re* withholding of prizes; yet when the judge has received his judging book he has found that he is instructed to withhold prizes wholesale. This is far from being satisfactory, and the shows will in all probability suffer in regard to entries this year unless full prize-money is guaranteed. Of course where committees state that they will pay out on the sliding scale, exhibitors know what to expect, although this system is not one which finds much favour here, as I believe most exhibitors would much prefer to see all classes that did not pay "cancelled," and if show committees would cater more for the small exhibitor,

the novice, and amateur, and give the local fanciers a chance of getting into the prize list by confining the competition to a given radius or debarring the professional from competing (deck sweeping is very fashionable down here), and also guarantee full prize-money, then, I believe, there would be no cause of complaint *re* short entries.

I understand that the recently formed Old English Game Club (of which Mr. T. L. Castree, Mountain Ash, is secretary) is making very satisfactory progress, and that the membership is rapidly increasing. This is not to be wondered at when we consider the great popularity of the Old English Game in South Wales to-day. For some time now Old English fanciers have been very anxious to start a club of their own, notwithstanding that they were catered for by the United Game Club, and it must be admitted that the latter club has done a good deal for the breed in the past. The contention, however, was that they had to suffer through the unpopularity of some of the other breeds catered for by the club, such as Modern Game, Malays, and Aseels, and when classes were guaranteed for these, as a rule it resulted in a financial loss, while on the other hand Old English generally more than paid their way. Hence the cause of the dissatisfaction, and the result has been the formation of a separate club.

A suggestion is now being thrown out to form a specialist club in Wales for Wyandottes, and I fully believe that there are sufficient fanciers of the Wyandotte in Wales to form a good club, if the majority of them would but take an interest in the matter. It must be admitted that at the majority of South Wales shows the classification for Wyandottes is far from satisfactory.

## AN INTERESTING CASE.

(From the *Irish Farming World*.)

AN action of considerable interest to poulterers was recently heard before the Leeds Recorder. Mr. Patrick Kirby, of Carrick-on-Suir, an extensive shipper of poultry, sued Messrs. Donelly and Son, of Leeds, commission agents, for £16 9s. 3d., balance due on a contract for Christmas turkeys. The plaintiff gave evidence to the effect that he was asked by wire to quote a price for turkeys. He did so, and defendants gave an order, and he shipped them turkeys to the value of £64. In reply to invoice and correspondence the defendants only paid part of the total, leaving £16 9s. 3d. due. This amount they claimed to retain, partly as commission and expenses, and partly as loss owing to sales at a lesser price than the price quoted by Mr. Kirby. The plaintiff stated to the Court that he did not deal with Messrs. Donelly as commission agents, as he would not sell on commission at Christmas time owing to the charges and exactions of all commission agents at that period. His Honour, in giving a decree for the full amount—viz., £16 9s. 3d.—held that the sale was an absolute one and not on commission.



## REVIEWS.

THE POULTRY MANUAL. By the Rev. T. W. Sturges, M.A.  
London : Macdonald and Evans. 6s. net.

WITH the many changes taking place in exhibition poultry, books treating upon the poultry industry from that point of view very speedily become out of date and need revision. Hence it is not surprising that new works written by those who are *au fait* with the immediate phases make their appearance from time to time. In fact, they are necessary, and deserve a hearty welcome. This book, by the Rev. T. W. Sturges, is probably the most important treatise for fanciers which has been issued in England since the famous and epoch-making "Book of Poultry," by the late Lewis Wright. To say that "The Poultry Manual" does not in any sense rival the older work is no unfair comparison, for we are sure the author would be the first to acknowledge such to be the case. It does not attempt the same exhaustiveness of treatment ; but its price is much less.

To the considerable class of poultry-keepers who are essentially concerned with the Fancy side of things, this book will appeal very strongly, and it may be accepted as a reliable guide by them. In fact, the entire scheme is with that object in view. The chapters dealing with Housing, Feeding, Hatching, and Rearing, &c., are excellent for the fancier, to whom they may be commended, but the practical or commercial aspect, to which a chapter is devoted, takes a very inferior position. And it could scarcely be otherwise by reason of the fact that the two branches are working on different lines to different ends. It is to be regretted, therefore, that in advocating the one the position of the other should be mis-stated. When Mr. Sturges says :

Our Maker has implanted the love of the beautiful and the desire to attain perfection in the hearts of the best of His creatures, and in the culture of poultry many have found an outlet for this love and this desire, as well as an aid to the enjoyment of life and an employment to occupy their energies, bringing in its measure due reward.

We all agree with him, and in so far as the exaltation of external points are concerned, so long as they are in conformity with maintenance and improvement of practical qualities, the fancier renders service. But when it is said that

Those who scoff at beauty insult their Maker and the work of His hands, for nature is a boundless field of beauty,

we have a statement which attributes to utility poultry-keepers a position they have never dreamt of assuming.

The last-named are striving to increase food supply, and to them colouration is a very minor point. As well might we expect the sheep-breeder to be condemned because he does not make colour of wool his most important consideration. Beauty is conformity of shape, combined with the greatest production of that which is profitable, and a reward for his labour.

The entire question is judged by the point of view. Nothing is to be gained by ignoring that of others. We cannot determine it by almost making into a sin what is merely a difference of outlook. Taking the author's predilections into account, and in this respect he is qualified by long experience and success as a breeder and judge, the book is excellent in every way. Of its 597 pages 330 are given up to descriptions of breeds, which are clear and concise, and are helped greatly by the illustrations, especially the coloured plates. One of the most interesting chapters is that devoted to the Mendelian Law, which may help breeders greatly in many directions, though there is much to be done ere it can be regarded as exact science. The chapter on colour-breeding is also valuable, and the work in these directions will be welcomed by poultry-breeders generally. A very complete glossary and index add greatly to the merits of a work upon which author and publishers alike may be congratulated.

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THE COMMON SENSE OF POULTRY CULTURE. By C. P. Telling. Pole and Son, Bristol. Price 3½d. post free.

THIS little book is written mainly for the back-yarder, or at any rate for the small poultry-keeper, with whom, as Mr. Telling very truly points out, the future of the poultry industry in this country rests. It contains a moderate amount of advice as to the selection and management of fowls, and though the author has been more than ordinarily successful as an exhibitor, it is the utility rather than the fancy side of the business that he deals with. He favours, however, pure breeds as against cross breeds for utility purposes. Bantams are recommended as the most suitable fowls for a confined space ; and matters of accommodation and feeding are dealt with in a catholic and practical spirit. One or two stories of novices' ignorance should encourage the small poultry-keeper who is smarting from his initial failures and from the self-condemnation they often bring in their train.



## ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

*The Editor will be glad to hear from readers on any Poultry Topics, and all Queries addressed to the paper will be answered if possible in the issue following their receipt. The desire is to help those who are in any difficulty regarding the management of their poultry, and accordingly no charge for answering such Queries is made. Unless stated otherwise, Queries are answered by*

F. W. PARTON,

*Lecturer in Aviculture, The University, Leeds.*

### Feeding for Exhibition.

"I have a Black Leghorn cock I intend showing in November. Would you advise me to keep it in a cote 4ft. square? It is now kept on a clay run. It has not yet commenced to moult. Would you advise me to force the moult, and, if so, what is the best food for the purpose? What food is generally used for feeding birds intended for show? What is the best thing to do to get all wrinkles and marks out of the earlobes and to make the comb a bright red—the comb has gone a little bit blue?"—H. L. (Oldham.)

A 4ft. square "cote," provided it is not less than 4ft. high, will answer well enough in which to moult a Black Leghorn cock; but it is not advisable to keep the bird continually confined to such a small place until it is required for the November show. If it is used as a moulting-house (and many similar contrivances are in vogue in fanciers' yards) the front should be of light sacking stretched on a wooden frame to answer as a door; and there should be a 6in. space at the top of each side to keep the interior well aired. But as soon as the bird is through his moult he should be permitted to run in the open in a shaded place. A clay run will answer the purpose provided it stands on high ground and is well drained. Confinement to the "cote," combined with rather short rations, will cause the fowl to commence moulting; and an occasional feed of hemp seed at this period will prove beneficial, although it must be discontinued as soon as the moult commences. Nothing can be done to hasten the moult. Keep the bird warm and well fed, but with cooling food, since a stimulating diet causes fever and prevents the proper formation of the features. There is really no special food for giving to fowls which are intended for exhibition. Spratt's Poultry Meal as the soft food is good at all times, and there is not a better for poultry. Half a handful allowed to soak thoroughly in boiling water for about an hour and then mixed with a small quantity of boiled and minced cabbage and dried off with middlings will be found ample for the bird's breakfast, and about a handful of wheat or short and heavy oats will do for "tea." In confinement fresh green food should be freely allowed, and there is no kind to excel lettuce which has gone to seed and is stalky. The best thing to do to get

wrinkles out of white earlobes is to bathe them frequently with tepid water or milk, to work them well between the finger and thumb, and then to dust them lightly with zinc powder or starch powder; but no trace of the powder must be allowed to remain on the lobes when the bird is exhibited. If the Leghorn's comb has "gone a little bit blue" the bird is probably suffering from liver complaint, and a dose of Epsom salts combined with a good supply of fresh dandelion leaves (either given whole or minced and mixed with soft food) will probably be all that is needed to set matters right.—W. W. BROOMHEAD.

### Starting Poultry-farming.

"Would you be kind enough to give me some practical advice on the following matter, also your honest opinion as to the same? I have lately been thrown unexpectedly on my own resources, and, as I have lived in the country and kept about 11 or 12 barn-door fowls, I should like to know if a *living* could be made out of the industry, where a house (for people) and a field of about half an acre have to be hired for the fowls, also. If so, would £50, or thereabouts, be sufficient for a start? I mean as regards buying stock birds, and the necessary appliances, coops, incubators, &c. Would you advise me what birds to get for good all-round qualities, and how many respectively of hens and cocks? I formerly kept fowls in such a haphazard way that I was always in doubt as to the quantity and kind of food to give. I used to feed my fowls three times a day, once giving them house-scrap and the other twice, tail wheat, or barley. Which is the best kind of food for them, how should it be given, and where is it obtained from? Do you think it would be advisable for me to go on to a good poultry-farm to obtain practical experience? Or, would it be possible to obtain a post for a time as assistant without salary, and, if so, what papers are the best for advertising for the purpose? Would you also tell me which, in your opinion, pays the best—keeping poultry for egg-production only, or raising chickens? Do you consider the district round Cambridge advantageous for poultry-farming? Also should I, after getting your expert advice, 'go in' for poultry-farming? What do you think, with the minimum of labour, I may expect to make per year according to the £50-start I have alluded to?"—G. G. S. (Cambridgeshire.)

Upon the area of land named it would be impossible to make a living, though, under proper management, you



might add a little to your income by poultry-keeping. The number of birds you could keep and chickens reared would be small, and whilst the house-scrap would be useful and reduce cost of feeding, the total returns would be insufficient to provide a living when the rent and other establishment expenses were paid. This question is discussed fully in "Poultry-Keeping as a Business" in the May RECORD, which you should study. As to the other questions asked: (1) The capital named would be sufficient to commence on a moderate scale; (2) For feeding, consult articles in our columns, or a good handbook; (3) Before attempting poultry-farming, you should go somewhere to obtain practical experience, but it is doubtful whether anyone would take you as an assistant without salary, nor could that be expected, as learners are required to pay a premium; (4) Whether egg-production or rearing chickens pays best depends upon the district; (5) The district named is suitable, except where the land is too heavy; (6) It is impossible to suggest the income you could secure. Much depends upon the individual. Where one might make a substantial profit another would make a heavy loss. It is the personality which counts.—E. BROWN.

### Duration of Moults.

"How long do hens take to moult, and is there any way of hurrying on the process?"—F. W. (Sheringham.)

The duration of the moult depends upon the age of the birds. You may reckon two months each for the first and second adult moult; after the second the process is considerably prolonged. There is no certain means of appreciably hurrying on the moult. You can, however, by giving good nourishing food, expedite the bird's recovery.

### A Difficult Question.

"I have a flock of about forty-five hens of mixed breeds, but Buff Orpington blood predominating, and I have got hardly any eggs this year—not more than an average of about twenty-five per bird. They have a free run and are well fed. I shall be much obliged if you will kindly tell me why my hens are not laying better."—R. T. M. (Wimbley.)

It is quite impossible to help you unless you furnish us with full particulars as to the conditions under which your fowls are kept, your method of feeding, and management generally. We are inclined to think that your birds are much too old.

### Colour of Egg-Shells.

"Is there any difference between the quality of a brown and a white egg? I have just read in my morning paper that there is a difference, but I always thought that brown eggs were richer than white. I shall be glad to know whether my paper or I am right."—S. C. E. (Queenstown.)

It is a common idea that brown-shelled eggs are richer than are the white. Probably the richer colouring of the brown egg gives this impression. There is,

however, no difference in quality between the two. Undoubtedly the eggs of some breeds are much richer than those laid by others, but the colour of shell is no indication as to the quality of the egg.

### Winter Egg-Production.

"Will you please tell me in the next issue of the ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD which is the best breed for winter egg-laying, as I want to buy some young chickens now, keeping them till the autumn. Is the Black Langshan a good breed to keep, or is there a better one for my purpose?"—A. V. S. (Rochester.)

The general purpose breeds are the best winter layers. These include Wyandottes, Orpingtons, and Plymouth Rocks. Any of these breeds will suit your purpose admirably. Yes, the Black Langshan, under favourable conditions, is a good breed to keep, but doubtless one of the above-mentioned breeds would suit you better.

### A Whitewash Mixture.

"Can you give me a good receipt for a whitewash for my poultry-houses? I find that lime and water is not very effectual, as it peels off so quickly and does not seem to kill all the insects."—W. R. (Dumfries, N.B.)

A good limewash for your poultry-houses is as follows: Add to one bucketful of limewash half a pint of paraffin oil and half a pound of soft soap. First thoroughly mix the soft soap and paraffin oil together, until the soap has taken up all the paraffin. It should then be added to hot limewash, and the soap and paraffin will readily dissolve. If they were added separately, difficulty would be experienced in getting them to mix.

### Cutting Hens' Wings.

"My White Leghorns are constantly flying out of their run, although there is fencing nearly six feet high. I have been told that if I cut their wings this will prevent them flying over, but I am not sure how to do it, or if there are any special feathers that should be cut. Your help will be greatly appreciated."—W. B. S. L. (Eversholt.)

An assistant should firmly hold the bird. The operator must then spread out the wing, and with a pair of ordinary scissors cut the first eight large feathers as close to the pinion as possible without actually drawing blood. One wing only need be so treated. If this simple operation be neatly performed there is little or no disfigurement, and it will effectually prevent your birds flying over the fence.

### Short Replies.

H. Y. (London): Yes.

P. R. T. L. (Ringwood): About 1875.

W. L. S. (Stevenage): We do not know.

H. M. L. (York): See reply to G. G. S. on page 756.

W. E. (Chatham): (1) Yes. (2) Yes. (3) No.

T. M. (Reading): A long article appeared on this subject in the January issue.



# THE MARKETS & MARKETING

CONDUCTED BY    VERNEY CARTER

## Market Reports, Week Ending July 24.

Trade very quiet, the holidays curtailing demand very considerably. Poultry had to be of very good quality to realise anything like good prices on the London markets. Producers should look to the seaside resorts, these being the most remunerative outlets at this period of the year, poultry and new-laid eggs being much in demand, especially the latter.

## Week Ending July 31.

No change in trade. Demand very slack except for best qualities of produce, and these were not realising full values. The demand for eggs slackened very much except for foreign supplies.

## Week Ending August 7.

Trade, if anything, was duller, the fine weather making people hurry out of town. The prolonged sitting of Parliament acted as a slight fillip to West-End trade. Demand for English eggs was very slack, while foreign supplies were still firm in prices.

## Weeks Ending August 14 and 21.

Markets were still dull. The game season has commenced, and therefore only poultry of good quality will realise fair values during the next two months. Demand for English in London still very slack. Foreign eggs still firm owing to shortage.

## Foreign Imports of Eggs During July, 1909.

As compared with the corresponding period of 1908 the imports of eggs during July show a falling off in quantities of 209,608 great hundreds, representing a monetary value amounting to £95,518.

Excepting Russia, all countries show a considerable rise in the average value of their eggs, as compared with the corresponding period of 1908. A table showing the increase in values per great hundred is given below :

	1908.	1909.
Russia ... ..	6 7½ per gt. hd.	6 6 per gt. hd.
Denmark ... ..	8 5¼ "	9 0¼ "
Germany ... ..	6 10½ "	8 2¼ "
France ... ..	8 5½ "	9 0¼ "
Italy ... ..	8 8 "	9 0¼ "
Austria-Hungary ...	7 3½ "	8 4 "
Other Countries ...	7 1 "	8 2¼ "

## The Grouse Trade.

The first few birds to arrive on the London markets realised as much as twenty shillings per brace, but prices quickly fell away, and good young birds could be obtained at from seven to eight shillings per brace, the price at the time of writing being down to six shillings.

The various Game Protection Associations were very active this season, and this action on their part had the effect of considerably reducing the number of birds received on the markets during the early part of the morning of the 12th. Evidently the high prices realised by the early birds tempt a certain class of persons to kill birds on the eve of the 12th, and quite a good few birds are sent through the Parcel Post to market. This season, however, large numbers of these consignments were refused by the salesmen on the market. As some of these consignments come from Ireland, it stands to reason that the birds must have been killed before the 12th. The Irish Game Protection Association have been most active in taking this matter up, and have circularised nearly all the salesmen in this country, asking them for their co-operation in the matter, in the best interests of the supply of game, and to afford every facility for the detection of unlicensed persons, who for years have been sending quantities of poached game to the English markets for sale.

## THE ALLURING BROWN EGG.

### A PARTIAL FALLACY.

By VERNEY CARTER.

MORE in this country than any other is there shown a decided preference on the part of the public for eggs which have tinted shells. This preference owes its origin principally to appearance. The alluring brown egg possessing this pleasing attribute tempts one, and successfully, too, to go a step further and, first, to imagine, and then to state, that it has a superior flavour to its supposed humbler cousin—the white one. There is also a further reason why the tinted egg has found favour in the eyes of nearly all ; it is because the larger mass of brown eggs are of home production, and those that we receive from abroad are produced in the countries which are situated nearest to our shores—viz.,



# TABLE OF PRICES REALISED FOR HOME, COLONIAL, AND FOREIGN POULTRY, GAME, AND EGGS FOR THE FOUR WEEKS ENDED AUG. 21, 1909.

ENGLISH POULTRY—LONDON MARKETS.					FOREIGN POULTRY—LONDON MARKETS.					
DESCRIPTION.	1st Week.	2nd Week.	3rd Week.	4th Week.	COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN.	Chickens. Each.	Ducks. Each.	Ducklings. Each.	Geese. Per lb.	Turkeys. Per lb.
	Each.	Each.	Each.	Each.						
Surrey Chickens .....	2/9 to 5/0	2/6 to 4/0	2/3 to 3/9	2/3 to 3/9	Russia .....	1/0 to 2/9	—	—	—	—
Sussex " .....	2/9 " 5/0	2/6 " 4/0	2/3 " 3/9	2/3 " 3/9	Belgium .....	—	—	—	—	—
Yorkshire " .....	2/0 " 4/0	2/0 " 3/9	1/6 " 3/0	1/6 " 3/0	France .....	3/- to 4/6	—	—	—	—
Boston " .....	2/0 " 4/0	2/0 " 3/6	1/6 " 3/0	1/6 " 3/0	United States of America .....	2/3 to 3/3	—	—	—	—
Essex " .....	2/0 " 4/0	2/0 " 3/6	1/6 " 3/0	1/6 " 3/0	Austria .....	—	—	—	—	—
Poussins .....	1/6 " 1/9	—	—	—	Canada .....	—	—	—	—	—
Irish Chickens .....	2/0 " 3/0	2/0 " 3/0	1/6 " 2/6	1/6 " 2/6	Australia .....	—	—	—	—	—
Live Hens.....	1/6 " 2/0	1/3 " 1/9	1/3 " 2/0	1/3 " 1/9						
Aylesbury Ducklings.	—	—	—	—						
Ducks .....	2/0 " 3/0	2/0 " 3/0	1/6 " 2/9	1/6 " 2/9						
Geese.....	5/0 " 7/6	4/6 " 6/0	4/6 " 6/0	4/0 " 5/6						
Guinea Fowls .....	—	—	—	—						
Spring Chickens .....	—	—	—	—						

ENGLISH GAME—LONDON MARKETS.				
DESCRIPTION.	Each.	Each.	Each.	Each.
Grouse .....	— to —	— to —	— to —	10/- to 3/6
Partridges.....	—	—	—	—
Pheasants.....	—	—	—	—
Black Game .....	—	—	—	—
Hares .....	—	—	—	—
Rabbits, Tame .....	1/3 " 2/6	1/3 " 2/6	1/3 " 2/-	1/3 " 2/-
" Wild .....	—	—	—	—
Pigeons, Tame .....	—	—	—	—
" Wild .....	—	—	—	—
Wild Duck .....	—	—	—	—
Woodcock .....	—	—	—	—
Snipe.....	—	—	—	—
Plover .....	—	—	—	—

ENGLISH EGGS.				
MARKETS.	Per 120.	Per 120.	Per 120.	Per 120.
LONDON .....	10/6 to 11/6	10/6 to 11/6	11/6 to 12/6	11/6 to 13/-
Provinces.	Eggs per 1/-	Eggs per 1/-	Eggs per 1/-	Eggs per 1/-
MANCHESTER ...	10 to 12	10 to 12	10 to 12	10 to 12
BRISTOL .....	11½ per doz.	11½ per doz.	11½ per doz.	10½ per doz.

FOREIGN EGGS.				
DESCRIPTION.	1st Week. Per 120.	2nd Week. Per 120.	3rd Week. Per 120.	4th Week. Per 120.
Irish Eggs	8/0 to 9/0	8/6 to 9/6	9/0 to 9/9	9/3 to 9/9
French ...	9/3 to 10/6	9/0 to 10/6	9/3 to 10/6	9/3 to 10/6
Danish ...	8/6 " 9/9	8/9 " 10/3	8/9 " 10/6	8/9 " 10/6
Italian ...	8/6 " 9/3	8/6 " 9/3	8/6 " 9/6	8/6 " 9/6
Austrian...	6/6 " 8/0	6/6 " 8/0	6/6 " 8/0	6/6 " 8/0
Russian...	6/0 " 7/9	6/3 " 7/9	6/6 " 8/0	6/9 " 8/3
Australian.	—	—	—	—
Canadian..	—	—	—	—

IRISH EGGS.				
DESCRIPTION.	1st Week. Per 120.	2nd Week. Per 120.	3rd Week. Per 120.	4th Week. Per 120.
Irish Eggs	8/0 to 9/0	8/6 to 9/6	9/0 to 9/9	9/3 to 9/9

IMPORTS OF EGGS.				
MONTH ENDED JULY 31, '09.				
COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN.	Quantities in Gt. Hund.	Declared Values.		
Russia .....	928,976	£291,086		
Denmark .....	304,404	124,753		
Germany .....	8,869	3,149		
Italy .....	50,216	21,304		
France .....	75,345	30,599		
Canada .....	—	—		
Austria-Hungary	32,058	12,459		
Other Countries	96,467	37,273		
Totals.....	1,496,335	£520,623		

IMPORTS OF POULTRY AND GAME.				
MONTH ENDED JULY 31, '09.				
COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN.	Game.	Poultry.		
Russia .....	—	—		
Belgium .....	—	—		
France .....	—	—		
United States of America .....	—	—		
Other Countries .....	£3,831	59		
Totals .....	£3,831	7,608		



France, Holland, and Denmark. The tinted ones we receive from other countries are almost a minus quantity. In France, particularly, has this English preference been catered for, and the trade in this particular line has been highly specialised, and as a consequence the eggs arrive in this country in better condition than the mass of our imports of this class. As a natural consequence they are worth more monetarily than those which have to travel long distances. Therefore it follows that if an unscrupulous trader wants to mix foreign eggs in with, say, his better-quality English, in order to enhance his profits, it naturally pays him to use the cheaper foreign eggs, which are white. The effect of this practice, which, by the way, is rarer to-day than it was a few years back, has been that the purchaser has noticed that when he has come across an egg which was not quite all he desired, the "undesirable" has been white. At one time in the London dairy trade one would constantly hear people asking for brown eggs, using the word brown in place of the term new-laid. The above are the reasons why it is such a favourite, and favourite it will remain till either the egg or the hen ceases to exist.

There is just one other quality which in all fairness should be mentioned. Tinted eggs possess, as a rule, a better quality of shell, being generally thicker; therefore they are less inclined to crack when travelling, and the extra thickness also tends towards improving the keeping qualities. Having thus stated the case for the brown egg, we will now put forward the evidence in favour of the white one.

As all poultry-keepers know, and as Mr. Edward Brown, F.L.S., pointed out in an article on "The Colouration of Eggs" in the July issue of this journal, colouration is due to the breed of the fowl, and that it is the Asiatic breed that lays the tinted egg. It would seem at first sight to be quite a sufficiently convincing argument to state that breed does affect the flavour. But there are other and stronger determining factors at work which have greater and more far-reaching influences than breed. Both feeding and environment have immense influences on flavour. Birds kept in small runs or in confinement, which entails the loss of much natural food in the way of insect life, of which they are naturally very fond, will, unless they are very skilfully fed, very materially affect the flavour, leaving the colour of the shell but very slightly affected.

Careful chemical analysis has failed to prove that a brown egg possesses more nutritive qualities than a white one, and impartial tests made by the palate also have failed to detect the difference in flavour between the two. Even the devotee of the brown egg, when asked his opinion, does not, in the generality of cases, positively assert that the brown egg is the better, but expresses his impression that somehow he "thinks" it has a better flavour. That is about as far as he will venture.

Now let us, for instance, see what happens when a consignment of English new-laid eggs are sent from the country to town. The retailer, as soon as he receives them, goes through them and picks out the brown ones. He will

then, in all probability, mix with these a certain percentage of white ones in order to show up to better advantage the tinted ones. He then proceeds to price them at a higher figure than the remaining white ones, probably threepence a dozen more, irrespective of whether they are larger, smaller, staler, or fresher than the white ones; that matters not to him, since his customers like brown eggs, and if they want them they must pay for them, and pay for them they do. And what real benefit has the purchaser obtained? Simply a few coloured shells, which he cannot eat. More than probably he has netted a loss in weight of food value, for white eggs as a rule run larger than the tinted; he has spent money on a fancy, and nothing more. Still, the poultry-keeper must produce brown eggs, as the breeds which produce them are good winter layers, and eggs must be produced in the winter months if he is to secure remunerative outlets in the summer; but why the consumer pays a higher price on account of the colouration of a shell is a mystery.

The slight advantage of thickness of shell assisting the keeping qualities is practically nil, for in order that an egg should realise its full value it should be in the consumer's hands before it is a week old, and therefore the advantage gained by the thicker shelled egg is so infinitely small as to become a totally negligible quantity. To sum up:

First, the brown egg owes its popularity to appearances.

Second, it is popular on account of its British origin and also because it is imported from countries nearest to our shores; but it must be remembered that the white egg is also produced in England.

Third, chemical analysis and palate tests have failed to prove its superiority.

Fourth, the advantage gained in thickness of shell is altogether a negligible quantity when an egg is consumed within a week from the date of its production. This is assured where British producers adopt efficient methods of marketing. It is in this latter particular that egg-producers can do much to convince the public that a white egg is the equal of the brown one.

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## CONGRESS OF CHEMISTS.

### BACTERIA IN EGGS.

MISS E. M. PENNINGTON, of the Food Research Laboratory, United States Department of Agriculture, before the Agricultural Chemistry Section recorded the results of the chemical examination of the eggs of two varieties of the domestic fowl—Barred Plymouth Rocks and White Leghorns—made in all cases within forty-eight hours of laying. A bacteriological examination was also made of sixty-three eggs, and the presence was detected of thirty-five species of bacteria. Of twenty-six fertilised eggs eleven had a greater number of bacteria in the yolk, nine in the white, and in six the numbers were almost equal.



## SUNNYBROOK POULTRY FARM.

WEST ORANGE, NEW JERSEY, U.S.A.

IT is extremely difficult to realise that the picturesque suburban city of West Orange is only some twelve miles from the hustling, bustling city of New York, for even the railroad journey, taking as it does a route through the desolate, unkempt waste ground surrounding Jersey City and Newark, does not prepare one for the delightful

of two miles and a half taken in a light run-about, behind a fast-trotting mare, was a welcome introduction to American country scenery. With a kindly desire to show me the best of the latter, the route chosen for the outward drive was through Llewellyn Park, a semi-private park containing the residences of many of the most



MAIN BROODER HOUSE, 60ft. BY 15ft., CONTAINING TEN INDOOR HOVERS.

[Copyright.]

rural simplicity and beauty of Orange. The town lies in a valley, backed by the well-wooded slopes of the Orange mountain, and it certainly forms a perfect retreat for the overworked business man of New York. I made my trip at the invitation of Mr. Chas. D. Cleveland, the owner of the Sunnybrook Farm, and the drive

influential American business men, including the laboratory and dwelling-house of Thos. A. Edison, the inventor.

The poultry farm is in a well-chosen situation, on good workable soil with a southern slope, and is some thirty-seven acres in extent. It has been found to be an ideal rearing ground for



## TRADE SUPPLEMENT

youngsters, and this was demonstrated by the quality of the hundreds of chickens running about at the time of my visit. Mr. Cleveland is a busy man, and unfortunately he was unable to accompany me on the occasion of my inspection, but I was taken care of by Mr. George Austin, an Englishman, by the way, who acts as superintendent, and a royal welcome was given to me.

The farm is really a hobby of the owner, but like a true business man he will not touch a thing unless he can make it pay; therefore, every arrangement is made with a view to getting the best return for the outlay of capital. To this end the latest appliances are used and the best methods of hatching, rearing, and management are followed. Mr. Cleveland is a great believer in fresh air for poultry, and all of the thirty-one laying and breeding houses on the plant are fitted with open fronts. Owing, however, to the severity of

the climate in winter it has been found necessary to fix canvas covered screens, as only by this means is it possible to protect the birds during severe frosts. It is indeed hard to credit the fact that the Sunnybrook Farm has only been

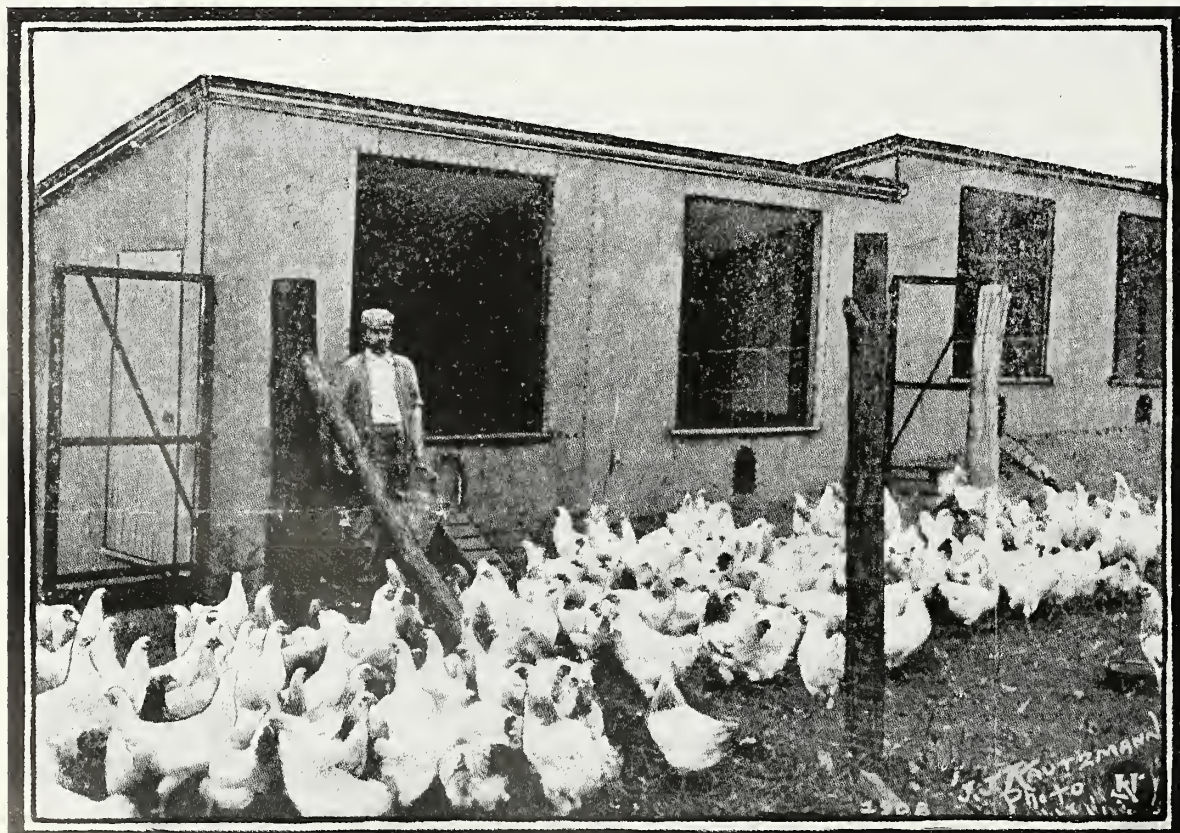
on the present site for about ten months, for it is replete in every detail, and one would imagine that the plant had been in operation for years.

Our illustrations only show a few of the many buildings that there are upon the farm, which is splendidly equipped. The housing accommodation comprises, among others, one laying house, 120ft. by 15ft., contain-



COLONY HOUSES, OF WHICH THERE ARE THIRTY UPON THE FARM.

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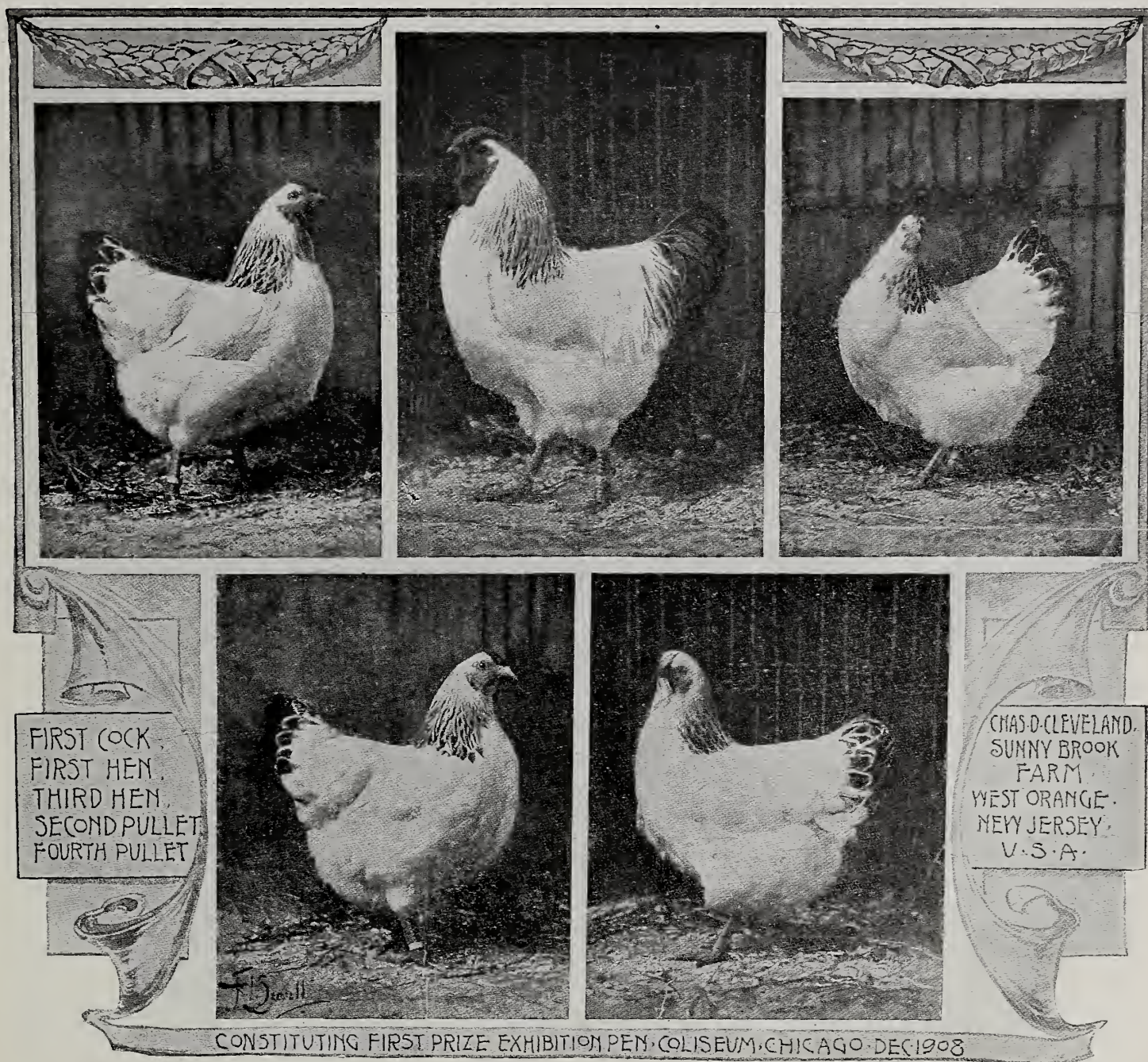
SOME OF MR. CLEVELAND'S CELEBRATED COLUMBIAN WYANDOTTES



ing 360 White Leghorns and White Wyandottes ; another, 50ft. by 30ft., containing 150 White Leghorns ; a third, 50 Columbian Wyandottes ; and a fourth, 45 White Wyandotte hens.

To maintain such a stock of breeders it is necessary to rear a considerable number of youngsters

shows will know the place Mr. Cleveland holds as a breeder of Columbian and White Wyandottes. As President of the National White Wyandotte Club and a member of the Executive Committee of the National Columbian Wyandotte Club, Mr. Cleveland is well "in the know" of things pertaining to this breed, and the mating list



each year. Further, a very large number of exhibition and utility birds are disposed of every season. To this end there is a large incubator house with a nursery for chickens above, and, in addition, the main brooder house, a picture of which is shown, together with a group of colony houses, numbering thirty.

Anyone who follows the round of American

he has prepared for 1909 contains winners at the leading American poultry exhibitions. The illustrations we give of Columbians show typical birds which go to make up the Sunnybrook stock, and, as these are untouched photographs, it proves that breeding is being carried out on right lines from the best birds obtainable.



## TRADE SUPPLEMENT

It is impossible to give a complete list of all wins during the season '1908—1909 to the credit of Mr. Cleveland's birds, for it would require too much space, but, taking some of the leading exhibitions in the United States, the prizes gained for Columbian Wyandottes are as follow :

## SYRACUSE, N.Y.

SEPTEMBER.

1st Pen ; 2nd and 3rd Pullet.

## HAGERSTOWN, M.D.

OCTOBER.

1st, 2nd and 3rd Pen.

1st, 2nd and 3rd Hen.

3rd and 4th Cockerel.

5th Pullet.

Over 90 birds competing.

## CHICAGO, ILL.

DECEMBER.

1st and 4th Cock.

1st, 3rd and 5th Hen.

2nd and 4th Cockerel.

2nd, 4th and 5th Pullet.

1st, 3rd and 4th Pen.

Challenge Cup for display 5 out of 9 Columbian Club ribbons.

Forty-two points, to the nearest competitor's 34.

## MADISON SQUARE GARDEN.

DECEMBER.

2nd Cock ; 5th Hen ; 3rd Pen.

## ORANGE, N.J.

FEBRUARY.

1st Cock.

1st and 2nd Hen.

1st and 3rd Cockerel.

1st and 2nd Pullet.

1st Pen.

Silver Cup for display and all specials.

W. BROWN.

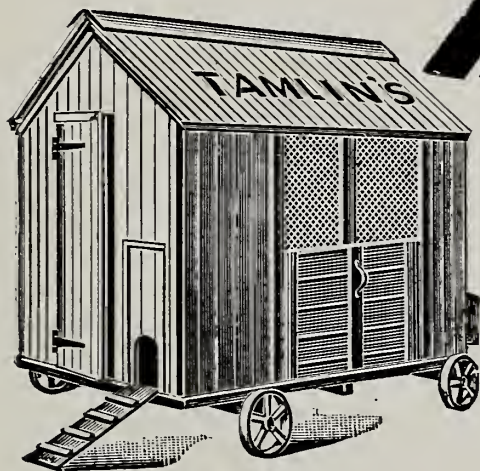


ONE OF THE TWO EXHIBITION HOUSES.

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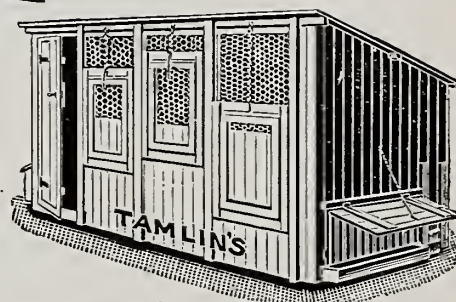


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will convince any Poultry-keeper that for once high quality and sound value at a low price goes hand in hand. In fact, these Houses can be purchased at a lower price, carriage paid, than the timber alone can be bought for locally, apart from their being designed and constructed on the experience of an Expert. Let us send you our catalogue. It has 250 illustrations of the different Appliances for Poultry-keepers, and we send it to you free on application.

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LONDON.



## CLUBS AND SOCIETIES.

### THE UTILITY POULTRY CLUB'S FOUR MONTHS' LAYING COMPETITIONS.

THE particulars of the two Four Months' Competitions arranged by the Club are now available. The Competition in the North is to be under the management of Mr. R. G. Baker, of Slade Poultry Farm, Ilkley, Yorks; that in the South will be managed by Mr. J. N. Leigh, of Baron's Grange, Iden, Rye, Sussex. Mr. Baker has had considerable experience of poultry-keeping, both in England and in the Colonies; while Mr. Leigh's pen was second in the recent Six Months' Laying Competition at Street. Thirty pens of four pullets each will be provided for in each Competition, which will extend for sixteen weeks from October 7th.

Prizes to the value of £6 10s. are offered in each Competition in addition to the Gold and Silver Medals and Second-Class Certificates of the Club, which latter, however, will only be awarded to pens of sufficient merit.

The entry fee is £1, and all eggs will be taken by the Club and sold towards defraying expenses.

Anybody, whether a member of the Club or not, can enter for the Competitions, and full particulars, rules, and entry forms can be had of the Hon. Secretary, L. W. H. Lamaison, Merstham, Surrey.

### NATIONAL POULTRY ORGANISATION SOCIETY.

A MEETING of the Central Executive Committee of the above Society was held at 20, Arlington-street, S.W., on July 29 last, the Marchioness of Salisbury in the chair.

The affiliation of the Marshland and Wingland Agricultural Trading Association of Walpole, Norfolk, with the N.P.O.S. was formally sanctioned.

The new regulations with respect to local societies desiring to become affiliated with the N.P.O.S. were formally submitted and approved.

The following ordinary members were elected: W. Stanley Bott, 31, Silver-street, Whitwick, near Leicester; A. Dryer, 35A, Maria-street, Millwall, E.; the Rev. C. T. Mundy, Sundon Vicarage, Dunstable, Beds.; Price Owen, Punchardon Hall, Willian, Hitchin.

### NORTHERN UTILITY POULTRY SOCIETY.

#### LAYING COMPETITION, 1909-10.

THE ninth annual Laying Competition, commencing on October 11, will be held under the management and personal supervision of Mr. C. George Skipper, Clifton Poultry Farm, Burnley. The competition will be distinct from any run previously by the Society. For the first time trap-nests will be used, and records of every bird will be kept. Results will be published each month as the competition proceeds. The manager will have full control of the feeding, and will use his discretion as to feeding the light and heavy breeds differently.

The competitions are not held to determine which is the best breed; the club recognises that good laying is a question of *strain*, and *not* of breed, and endeavours by means of these competitions to make known those fowls which under systematic treatment during the four worst months of the year have proved themselves to be good layers.

Full particulars may be obtained from Mr. Charles Longbottom, 28, St. Matthew-street, Burnley.

#### SPECIAL SOUND LINES IN POULTRY HOUSES.

OUR MOTTO,

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The **Subbler**, for 100 fowls, 9 by 6 by 6, in sections and on wheels with all latest improvements, including our special ventilating system, price **£5 5s.**; 50 fowls, **50s.**; 35 fowls, **35s.**; Coops, with bottom and run, 6s. 6d.; Anti-broody Coop, 6s. 6d. Trial order solicited.

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## BLIND GUIDES.

**P**REJUDICE against double mating systems is kept up chiefly as a result of the efforts of those who try to teach others what it is when they do not know themselves. For a guess we would say that only about one explanation of double mating in five shows an understanding of the subject. Nearly always the most essential fact in double mating is omitted.

We notice in an exchange just to hand an article on mating Barred Plymouth Rocks. In this article the writer describes double matings for that variety as the birds used appear to the eye, but has not a word to say about the breeding back of those birds.

In double mating — systematic double mating—it is not enough that a Barred Plymouth Rock male used to produce exhibition males should be of "Standard" colour and be mated to females darker than "Standard." He must be the son of an exhibition coloured male and a female of the type with which he is to be mated. His parents, likewise, on both sides, should have been the offspring of a similar mating; and their parents before them, as far back as possible. In other words, he must be of a line bred for males of "Standard" colour and females of the darker shade that comes in the female offspring of the mating which produces males of "Standard" colour.

So in all double matings. The exhibition specimens of each sex come not from a union of birds of certain descriptions, but from lines in which the characteristics of the sexes, necessary to produce what is desired, have been established. That is the point too many neglect to mention—probably because they don't know it. There are a lot of writers on poultry topics who have little practical knowledge of the topics they undertake to discuss with authority. Too many are simply repeating what happened to stick in their minds of what they heard or read somewhere.—*Farm Poultry.*

**When answering advertisements kindly mention "The Illustrated Poultry Record."**

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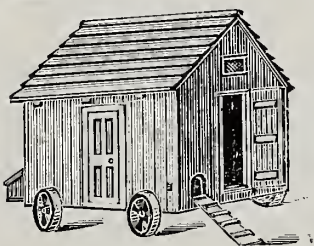
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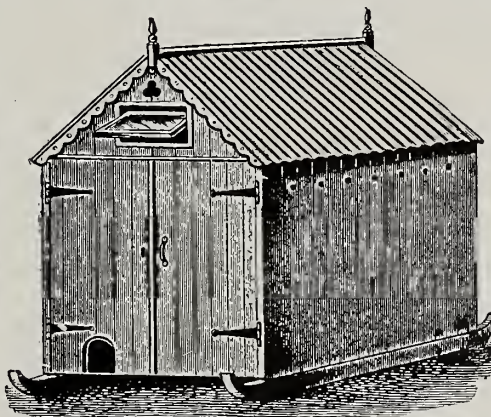
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Farmer's  
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With Floor.  
10ft. by 6ft. **£2 15s. 0d.**  
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If on Extra Strong Wheels and Iron Axles, £1 extra.



**50 Fowls,** 9ft. long, 6ft. wide, 7ft. high.. **£2 0 0**  
**30** " 7ft. " 5ft. " 6½ft. " .. **1 10 0**  
**20** " 7ft. " 4ft. " 6ft. " .. **1 7 6**  
**12** " 5ft. " 4ft. " 6ft. " .. **1 0 0**

If with floors, 5s. per House extra.

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## MR. TAMLIN'S EXPORTS.

**T**HE following is a list of Mr. Tamlin's exports for the month of July, 1909: Twenty 100 incubators, ten 60 incubators, to Smith, Nicholson, and Co., Victoria, Australia, per ss. Indralema; ten 100 Sunbeam foster-mothers, to A. Newcomb and Co., New Zealand, per ss. Kia Ora; twelve 60 incubators, twelve 100 incubators, twelve 100 foster-mothers, to Mons. A. Masson, France, per Bennett Steamship Co.; six 60 incubators, six 100 incubators, six 30 incubators, to John F. Marshall, Transvaal, South Africa, per ss. Inkosi; one 100 incubator to Mons. M. Blanchart, Belgium; one 100 incubator, to H. Wallace Stroud, Beira, per ss. Inyoni; two 100 Sunbeam foster-mothers, to J. R. Burrell and Co., Singapore, per ss. Monmouthshire; one 100 incubator, one 100 foster-mother, to J. P. Shephard, Monte Video, per ss. Bellevue; one 60 incubator, to J. E. Martin, Gibraltar; one 60 incubator and one 60 Sunbeam foster-mother, to N. Turner, Bombay, per ss. Arabia; one 100 incubator and one 100 foster-mother, to Mr. Van Oppen, Lorenzo Marques, per ss. Guelph.

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## SELECTIONS FROM OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

### What Poultry-Farming Means.

Not many years since I was visited by a gentleman who had hopelessly failed on the Stock Exchange. Knowing that I, so to speak, could distinguish a cock from a hen, he sought my advice. But, ere I could offer any, he informed me that if he could borrow a certain sum of money he "would start poultry-farming to-morrow." I put a few questions to this enthusiast, but his replies showed me very conclusively that he had no more idea of the subject than the traditional "man in the moon." And when I told him that he was practically ignorant of the business he exclaimed, "Business! Anyone could learn all about that within a week!" But he does not stand alone in such an idea. Unfortunately there are many others who hold similar notions. They are just the people who commence in a way that would wreck any concern, and who, when they have burnt their fingers at poultry-farming, take up the parrot-like cry that "Poultry do not pay." Another foolish notion is that poultry-farming is a nice light out-of-doors occupation. It must be acknowledged that to a lover of fowls it is nice work; and, moreover, it is such that

keeps one mostly in the open air, a pleasant thing in summer, but not altogether so delicious in winter! But, like everything else, there is a nasty side to it. And where the light work comes in many who are following the business have not yet discovered. Of course, there are occasionally slack times in connection with poultry-farming. Nevertheless, taken all the year round it averages about twelve hours a day and seven days a week, with enough work thrown in to prevent even the strongest among us terming it a light task.—W. W. B. in *Poultry*.

### Tragedy of Feathers.

A pathetic tragedy is reported from Peterborough. In the grounds of the gaol in Thorpe-road a thrush and a blackbird had built nests very near each other, and both had broods. The mother thrush not only fed her own young, but also gave free meals to the young blackbirds, the mother of which was a little given to gallivanting. She intensely disliked her neighbours pushing their beaks into her affairs, however, and when she found the mother thrush feeding the young blackbirds, she resented it warmly. A life-to-death struggle followed, and the

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thrush paid for her kindness with her life. When the blackbird had her neighbour dead on the field, she satisfied her vindictive, savage little soul by pecking out the thrush's eyes.—*Feathered Life*.

### The Hens Lay Every Day.

We need a year to grow a pig,  
'Tis two before a steer is big,  
The hens lay every day.

A trefoil takes three years to spread,  
A horse as colt three years we fed,  
The hens lay every day.

A field of grain just once we reap,  
A yearly fleece take off our sheep,  
The hens lay every day.

A few weeks yield the honey store,  
Then blossoms, fruit and all is o'er,  
The hens lay every day.

For other things too long we wait,  
Our life is short and pay day late.  
The hens lay every day.

—*Agricultural Gazette*.

### How to Begin.

Frequent inquiries are received asking how to start in the poultry business, the best breed, how to feed and care for the flock, and such other information as may be necessary. It is useless to say that such inquirers are beginners in the poultry business.

No one letter, except it be a regular book, can begin to explain the entire poultry business. One of the most important things in starting in the poultry business is to begin in a small way. There are more deserted poultry plants on account of trying to start too large than from perhaps any other one cause.

Here are some good rules to observe if you are starting in the poultry business

Get good stock.

Begin with a few hens.

Read several poultry journals.

Talk with experienced poultrymen and visit their yards.

Don't give up because you don't do well the first year  
—*Poultry Culture*.

### The Size of Poultry Flocks.

It is almost invariably found that when hens are kept in small flocks they lay better and are more healthy than when massed together in large numbers. It is not exactly easy to say just why this should be so, but it has been proved over and over again to be the case. Probably it is more a question of purity of atmosphere than anything else. Save under exceptional circumstances, 25 hens should not be exceeded; if the house is a particularly good one—high, airy, and well-lighted—the flock may be larger, but, as a general rule, the best results are obtained when 25 is not exceeded. The best system of housing is undoubtedly on the colony plan—small houses scattered about the fields, holding not more than two dozen hens.—*Farm and Home*.

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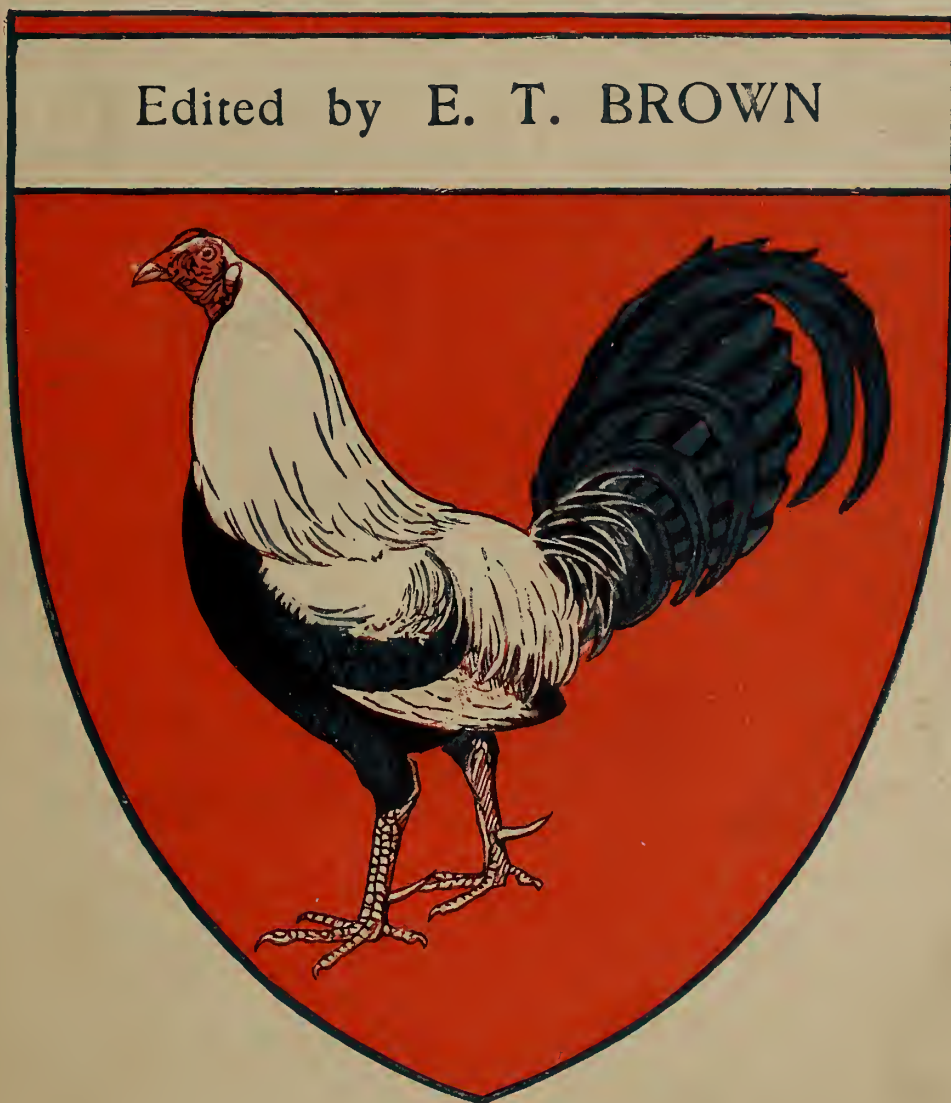
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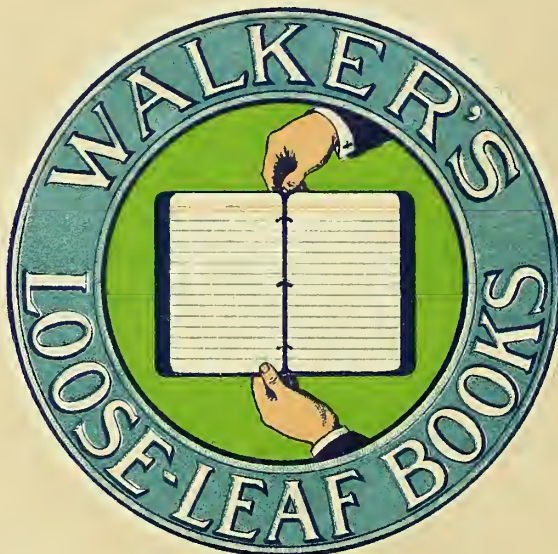
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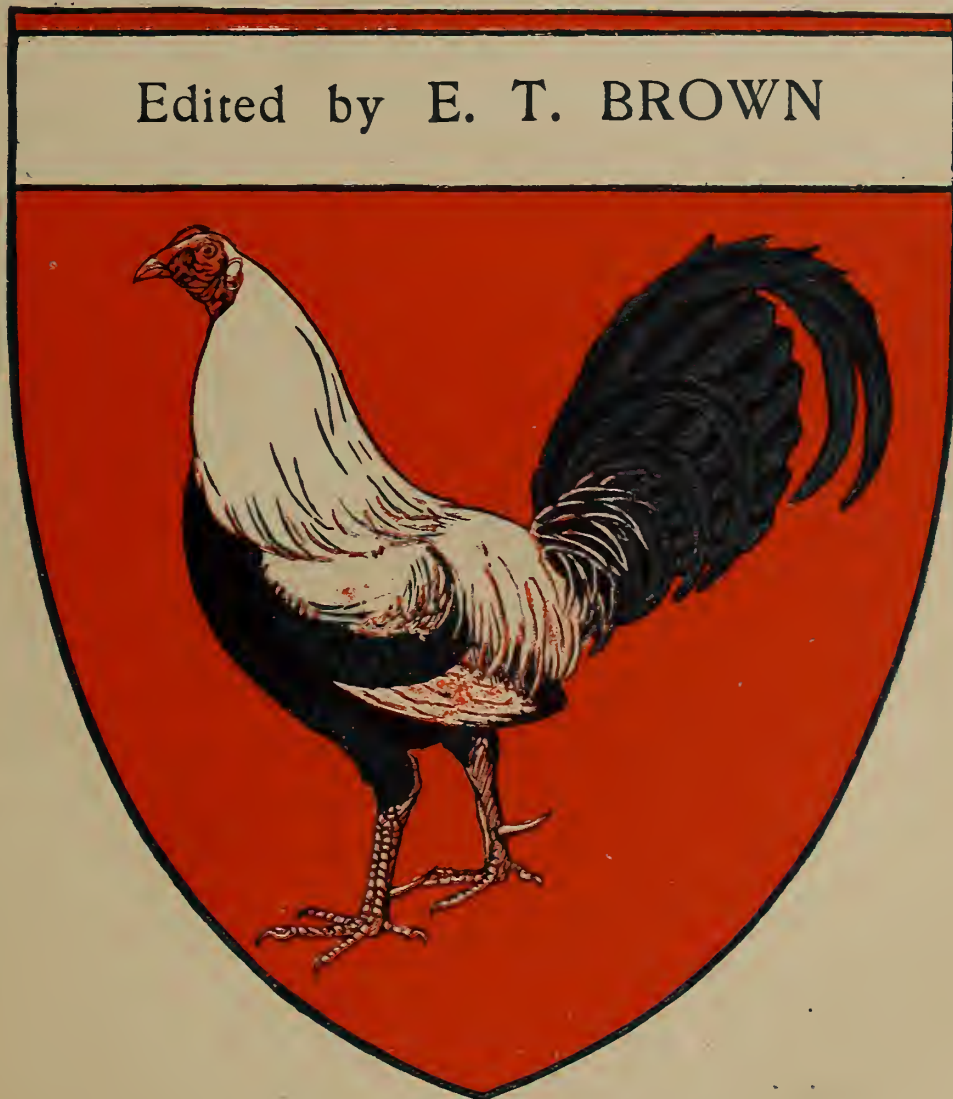
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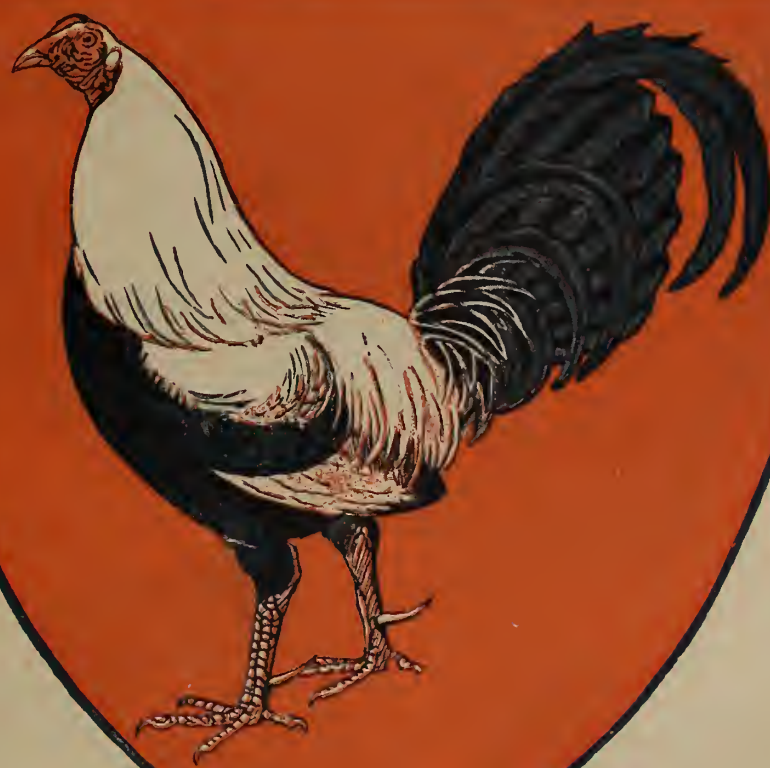
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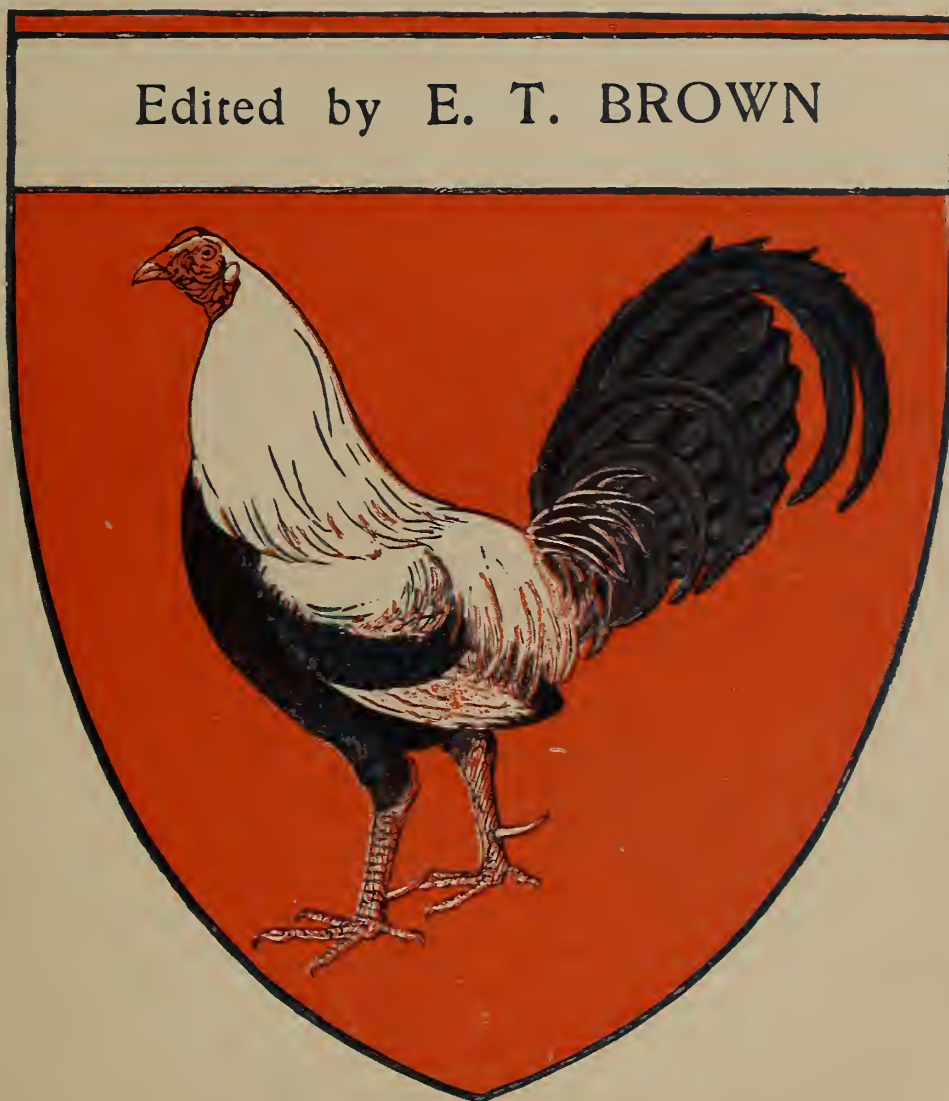
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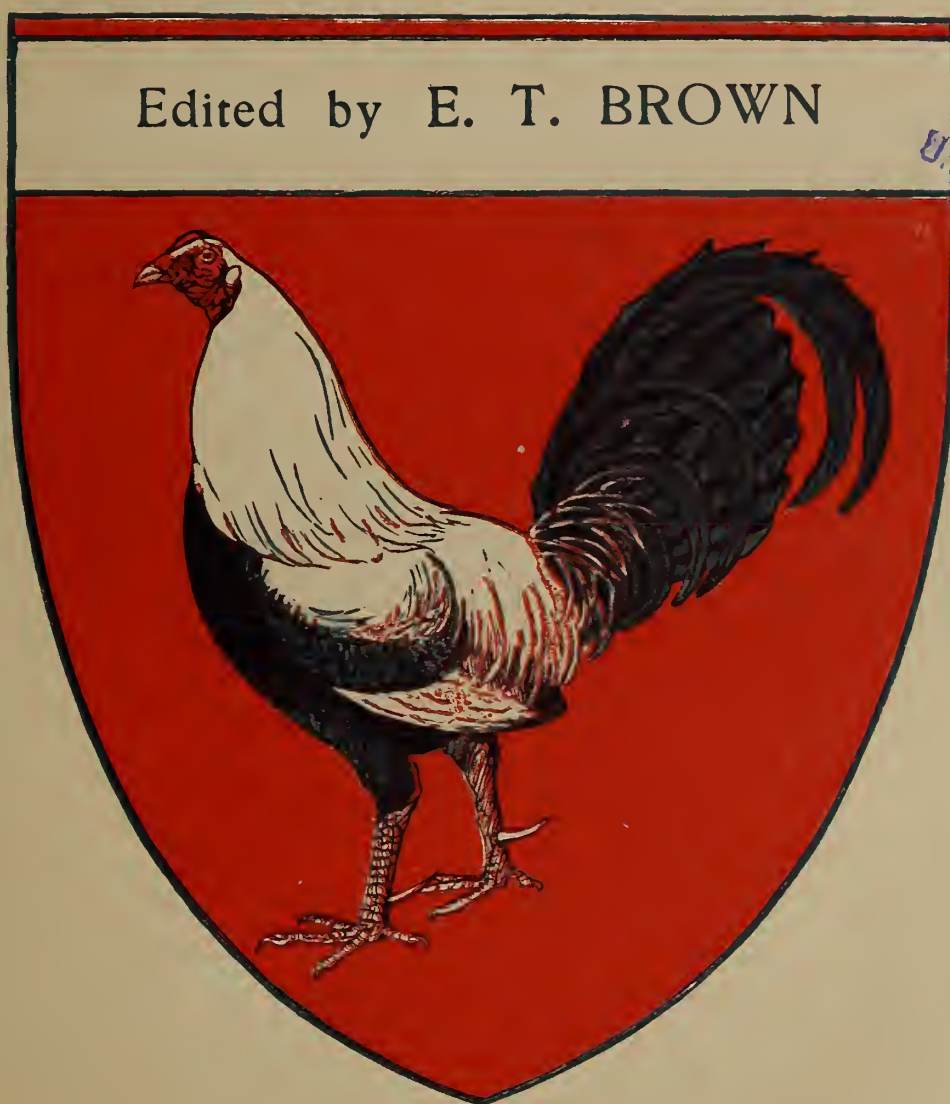


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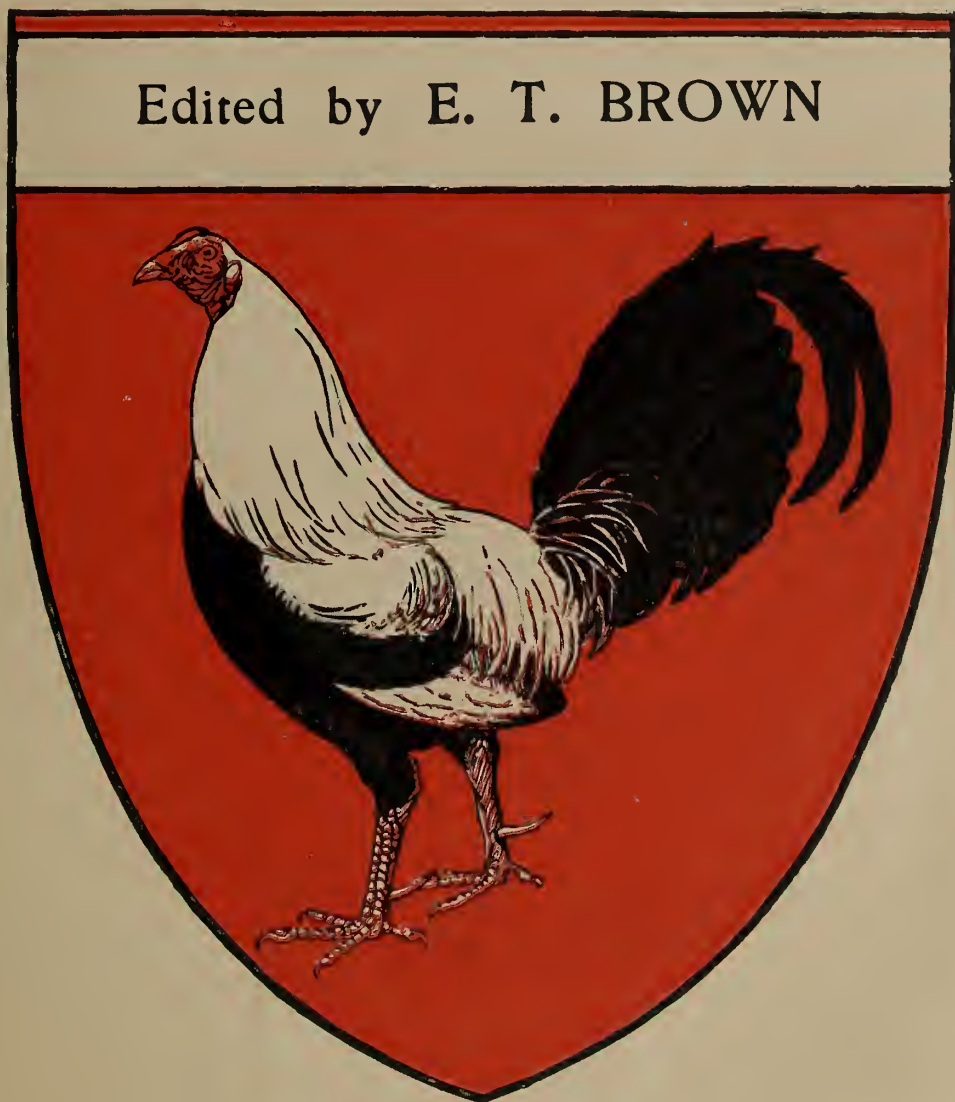
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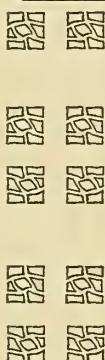
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# DAY-OLD CHICKS.



Breed.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	Breed.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.
White Wyandottes and Buff Orpingtons.					Brown & White Leghorns.				
1st Pen... ..	21/-	16/6	13/6	10/6	Heavy Laying Danish	21/-	16/6	13/6	10/5
2nd Pen... ..	15/-	12/6	10/6	8/6	Aylesbury Ducks.				
					One Week Old ...	30/-	25/-	20/-	15/-

TERMS—Cash with order. Live Delivery Guaranteed. On orders of 3-dozen, deduct 5%; 5-dozen, 7½%; 8-dozen, 10%. Prices per dozen, including packing.



PALACE, PARIS, AND CLUB SHOW, WINNING BLACK ORPINGTONS.

## ART. C. GILBERT

*The CHAMPION BREEDER*

*of all VARIETIES of*

## Orpingtons, FOWLS and DUCKS.

WYANDOTTES, ROCKS, LEGHORNS,  
and all other useful varieties kept.

BIRDS and EGGS for SALE all the  
year round, for Exhibition and  
Breeding.

If you want absolute quality and  
full value for money, come to me ;  
you will then get what you want,

THE BEST.

EXPORTATIONS to all PARTS of the WORLD  
at shortest notice.

Vacancy for a Pupil.  
Fees moderate.

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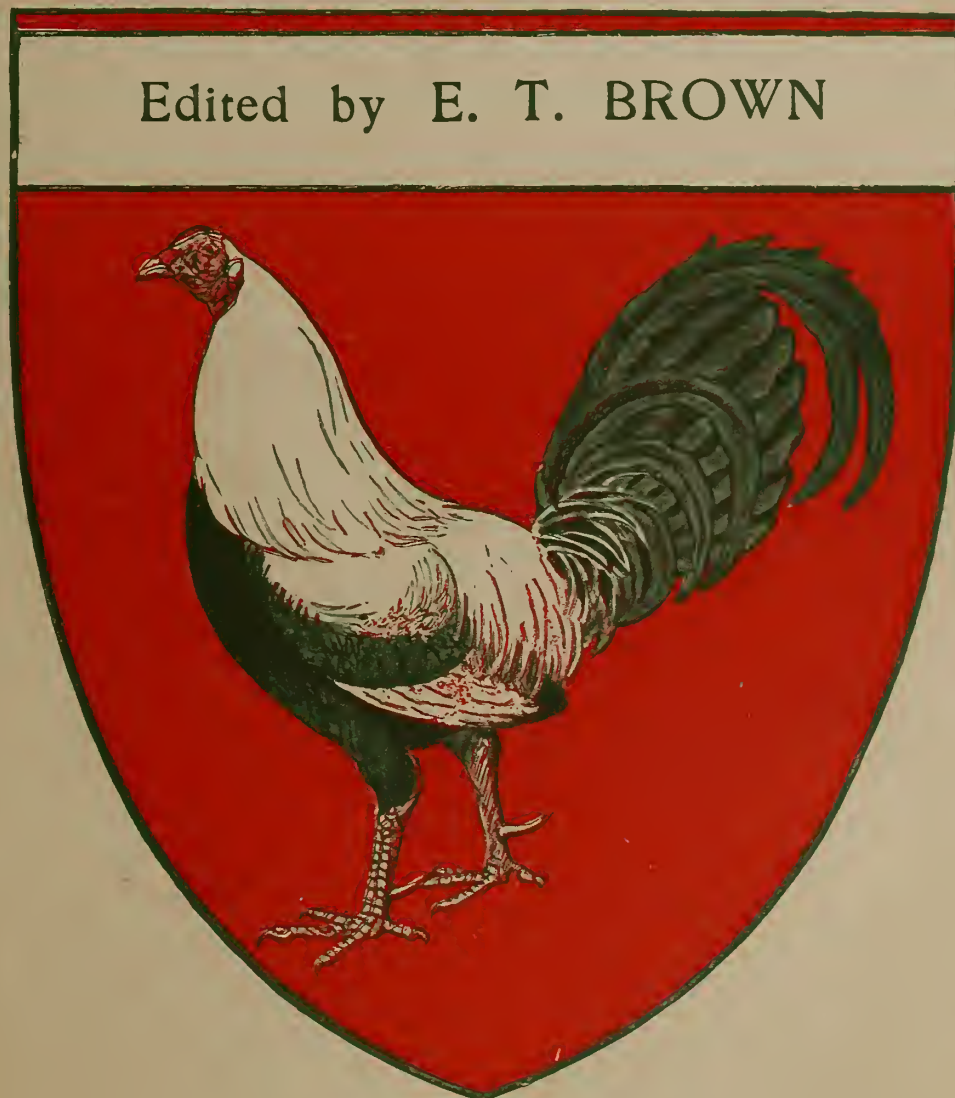


# THE ILLUSTRATED POULTRY RECORD

NUMBER 7

APRIL, 1909.

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MONTHLY

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**T. & W. BROWN,**COLLEGE POULTRY  
FARM.THEALE,  
READING,  
ENGLAND.**SPECIAL NOTE.**—Having booked a few dozen Danish and American Leghorn Day-old Chickens, for delivery during April and May, we regret to say the supply is exhausted.

M

**DAY-OLD CHICKS.**

	Breed.	April.	May.
White Wyandottes and Buff Orpingtons.			
First Pen ...		13 6	10 6
Second Pen ...		10 6	8 6

	Breed	April.	May.
Aylesbury Ducks.			
One-Week Old ...		20/-	15/-

TERMS—Cash with order. Live Delivery Guaranteed. On orders of 3-dozen, deduct 5% ; 5-dozen, 7½% ; 8-dozen, 10%. Prices per dozen, including packing.



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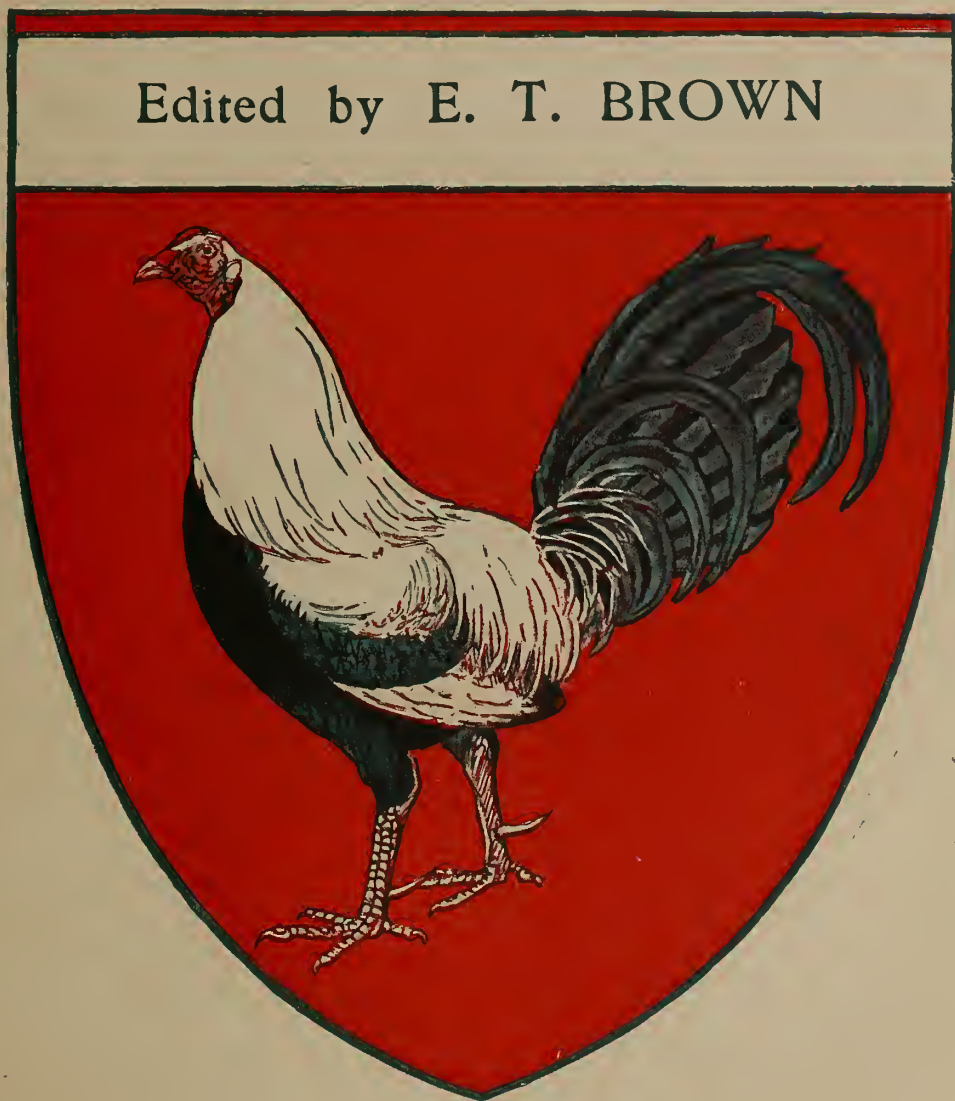
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**THEALE,  
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ENGLAND.**

## DAY-OLD CHICKS.

Breed.

White Wyandottes and Buff Orpingtons.

First Pen .. Per dozen .. .. 10/6

Second Pen .. .. 8/6

Aylesbury Ducks.

One-Week Old .. .. 15/.

TERMS.—Cash with order.

Live Delivery Guaranteed. On orders of 3-dozen, deduct 5% ;  
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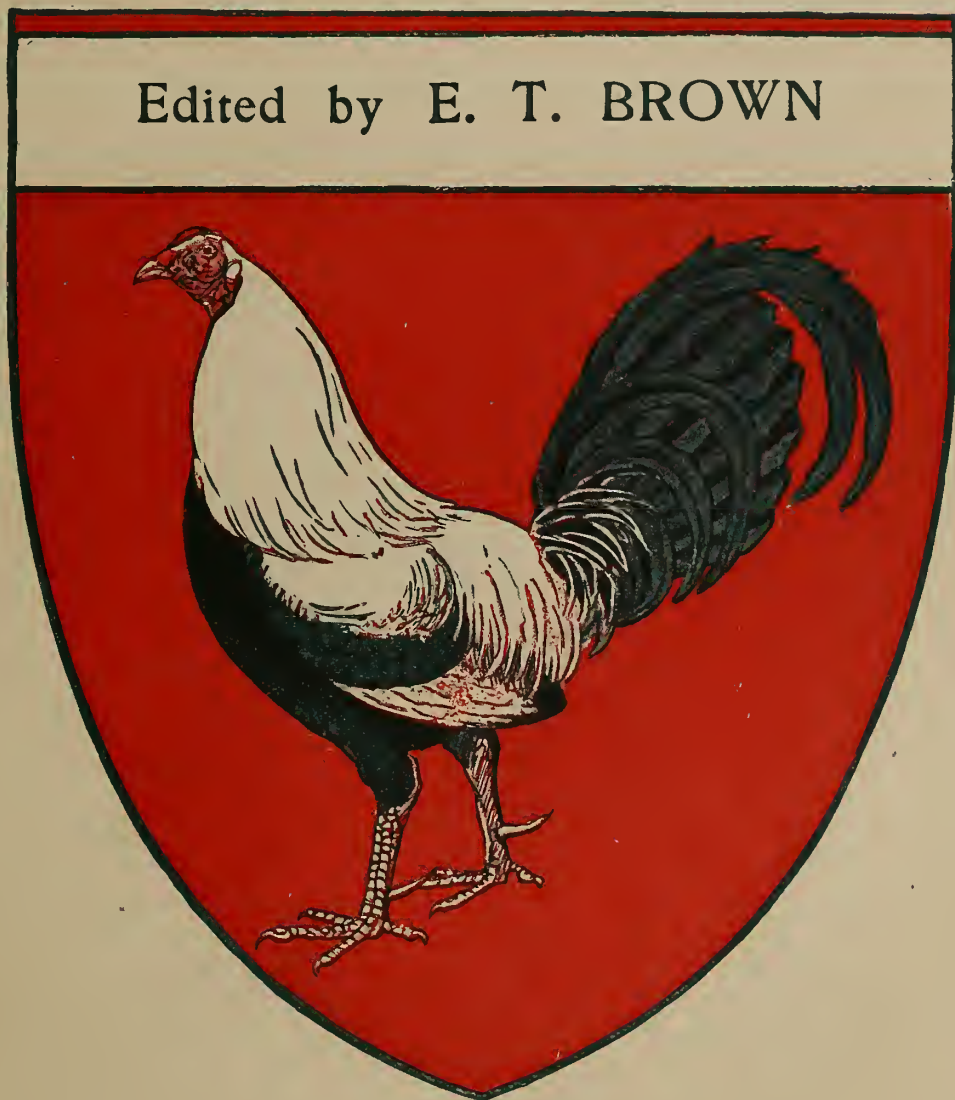
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BERKS.**

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owing to the College Poultry Farm, Theale, being closed by University College, Reading, in September next.

**Nearly 1,000 Birds, young and old, will be offered for Sale of the following breeds, suitable for stock purposes :**

**American White Leghorns,** of the famous Lakewood strain.

**Danish White Leghorns,** prolific egg layers.

**Danish Brown Leghorns,** wonderful layers of large eggs.

**White Wyandottes,** Brown strain.

**Buff Orpingtons. White Orpingtons. Rhode Island Reds.**

**Aylesbury Ducks,** quick growers and hardy.

**Young Stock will be ready for delivery in September.**

Further particulars on application.



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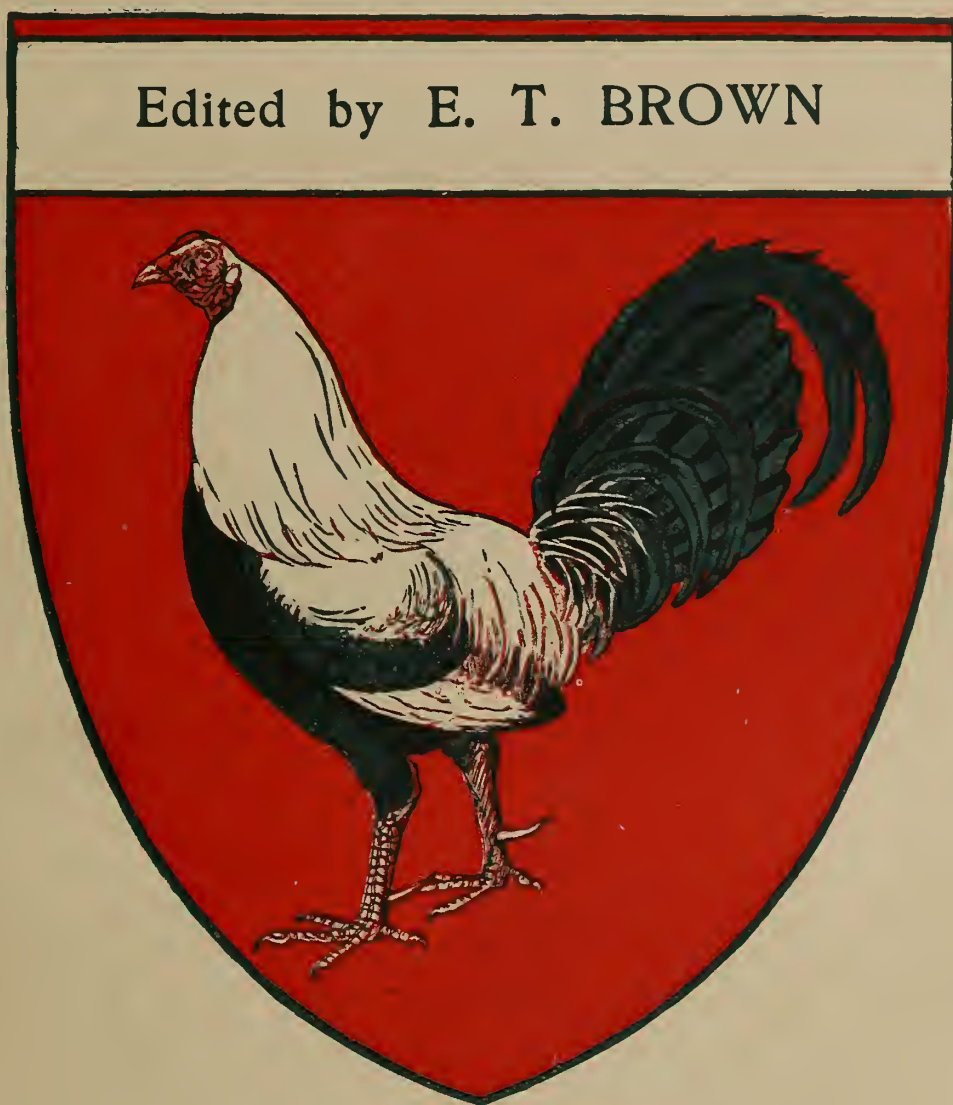
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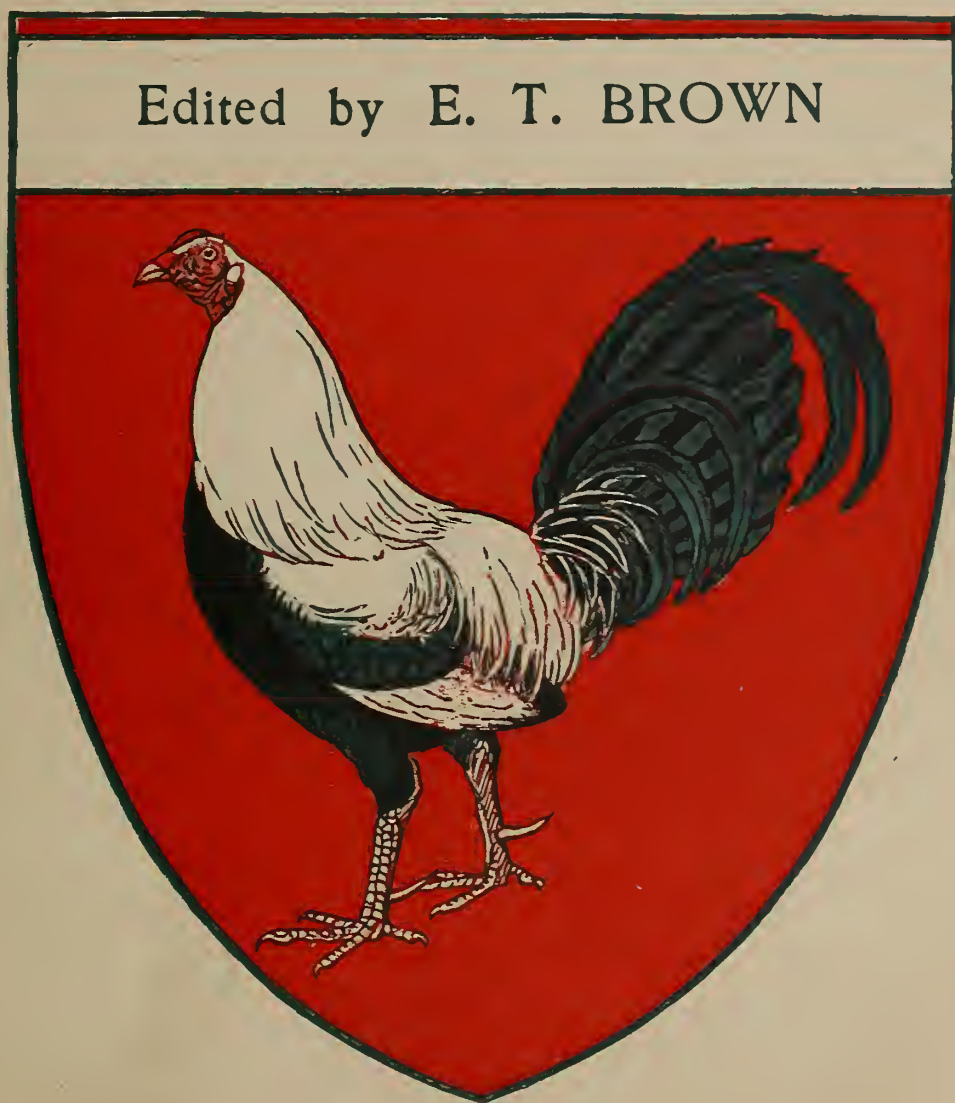
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WINNERS of 1st and Spls., 2nd best in show, Orpington (one of my Black Orps. winning best in show), 1st and Spl. Tring, 2 firsts and Cup best hen in show Eynsford, 3 firsts, Silver Medal and Diploma PARIS, 1st Cups and Spls. best in show Gillingham, 1st and Cup p.c. DEAL, 1st Redhill, 1st Spl. Canterbury, 1st Theydon Bois, 1st and Silver Medal, best hen in show Royal (Gloucester), 1st and Spl. Wirral and Birkenhead.

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**NOTE.**—The Birds Pictured Above are a Fair Sample of my Stock (and are **ALIVE**, not **DEAD** and **GONE**).

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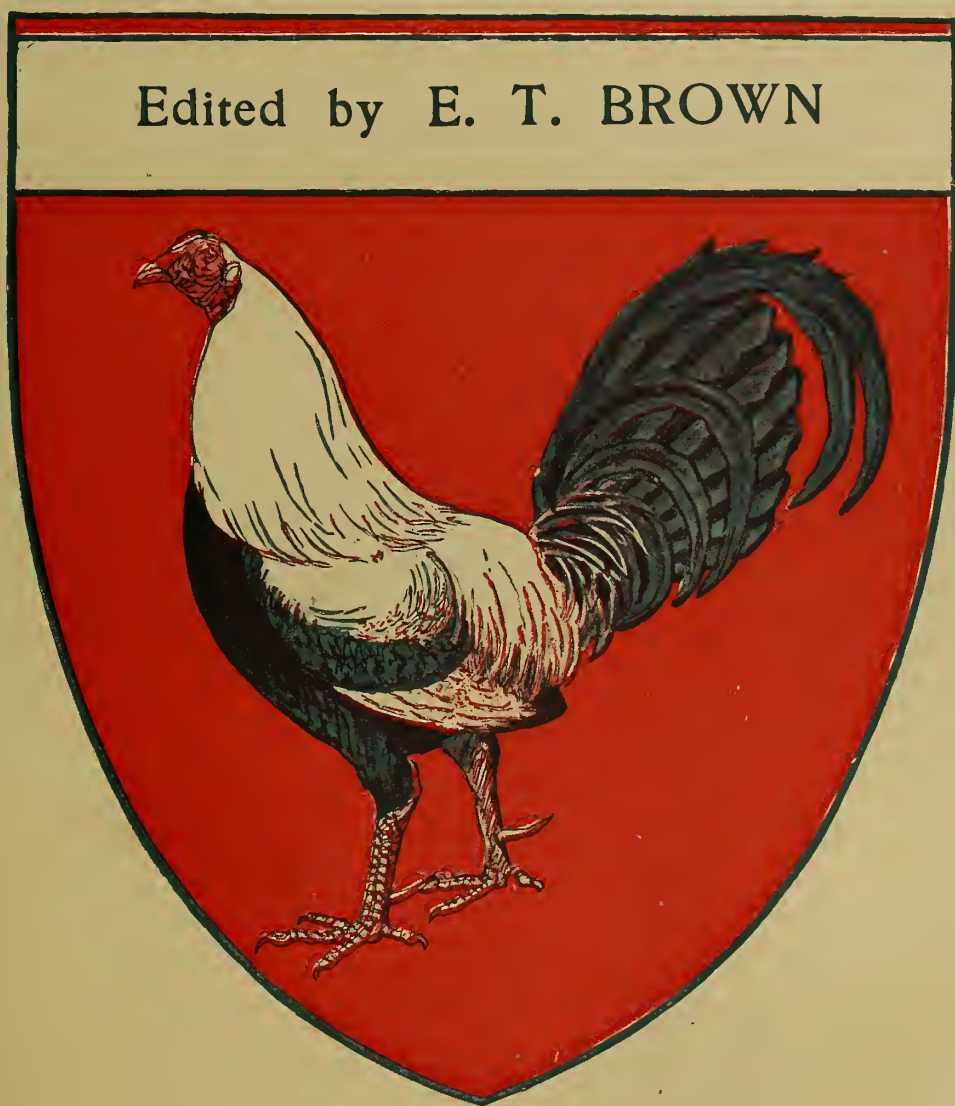
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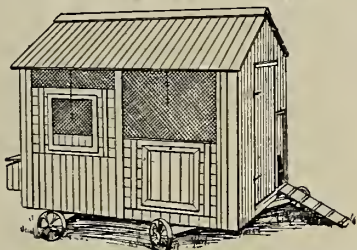
Offers his Champion Challenge Cup Buff and White Orpington eggs. Write for list with photos of the pens and prices. A few useful stock birds still for sale. Inspection by appointment. Vacancy for a pupil. Last year's wins include Special, 1st, four 2nds, 3rd Chichester (County Show); Special, two 1sts, 3rd Tunbridge Wells; two Challenge Cups best Cockerel in show and best bird in County, three Specials, 1st, 2nd, two 3rds, 4th Haywards Heath; Champion Challenge Cup (won outright), two 1sts, 2nd, three 3rds, and 4th Dairy; two Specials, three 1sts Eastbourne; 1st, 2nd, 3rd Kendal; 1st and Challenge Cup (Buff Cocks), 1st Challenge Cup, International Trophy (for best Buff), Medal and Special (Buff Cockerels), 2nd (White Cockerels, at the Club Shows, Crystal Palace; 1st and two Cups Buff Cockerels, 3rd Buff Cocks, 1st and 2nd White Cockerels, Birmingham.

**N.B.—All winners and birds offered for sale were bred at Northlands.**

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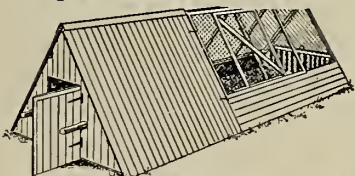
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As an All-round Fowl They Have No Equal.

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All hardy, prolific, farm-bred stock.

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**WALTER SHERMAN,**  
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**RHODE ISLAND REDS.**



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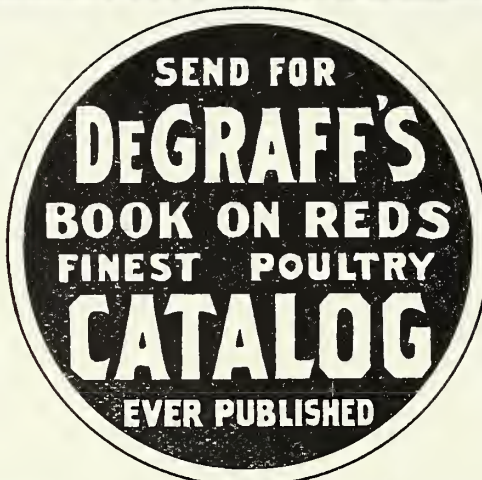
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I visited the De Graff Poultry Farm, where I inspected many hundred fine Reds, which were a surprise to me for the high average quality of both breeds. I found his 1909 breeding-pens comprised an extra fine lot of yearling hens, and large fully developed pullets, and as mated they would be hard to duplicate for good results in breeding. I saw at least 25 Red males that would average better than any string of males I have ever seen in any show-room and should make the best of breeders, as they are the same even shade of rich red all over that we are looking for.

JUDGE A. C. CHAPIN.

Springfield, Mass.



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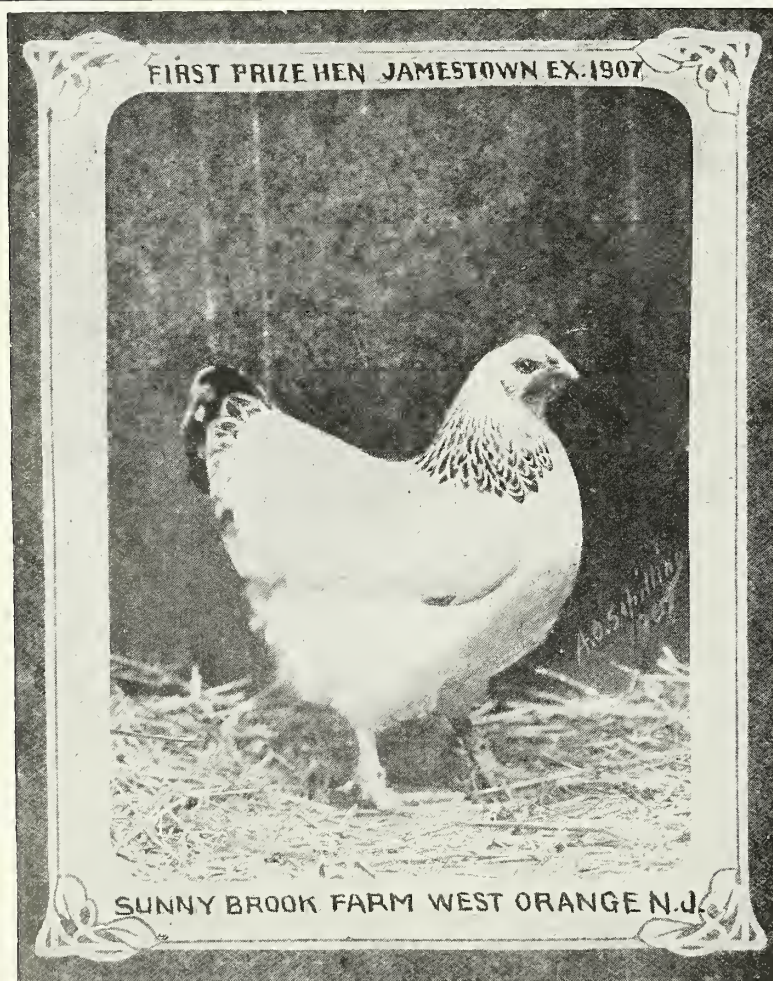
### Comment of one of America's leading Editors :

I am satisfied. I can truthfully say that I saw more good Rhode Island Reds in one bunch than I ever saw in my life, and the fact of such a large number of birds to see them all so uniform in colour and so healthy makes me say that my visit to your plant was the most interesting that I ever enjoyed in my life in this business. Certainly too much cannot be said of the number of birds you have, and the quality of them, and what is more the health which every bird appeared to be in. You are certainly deserving of all that is coming to you.

Yours very truly,  
F. W. DELANCEY,  
Editor of *Poultry Item*.

Sellersville, Pa.

**DE GRAFF POULTRY FARM, Amsterdam, N.Y.**  
Leading Red Specialist of America. (Read Will Brown's Visit on pages 703-706 in August issue.)



## COLUMBIAN WYANDOTTES.

Our birds have been leading **winners** for years at **America's** greatest Shows, including Jamestown Exposition; Madison Square Garden, New York; Chicago, Ill.; Hagerstown, Md.; Syracuse, N.Y., &c., &c.

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Complete winnings and description of our birds and plant in catalogue, sent on request.

We advise booking orders for Show Birds immediately.

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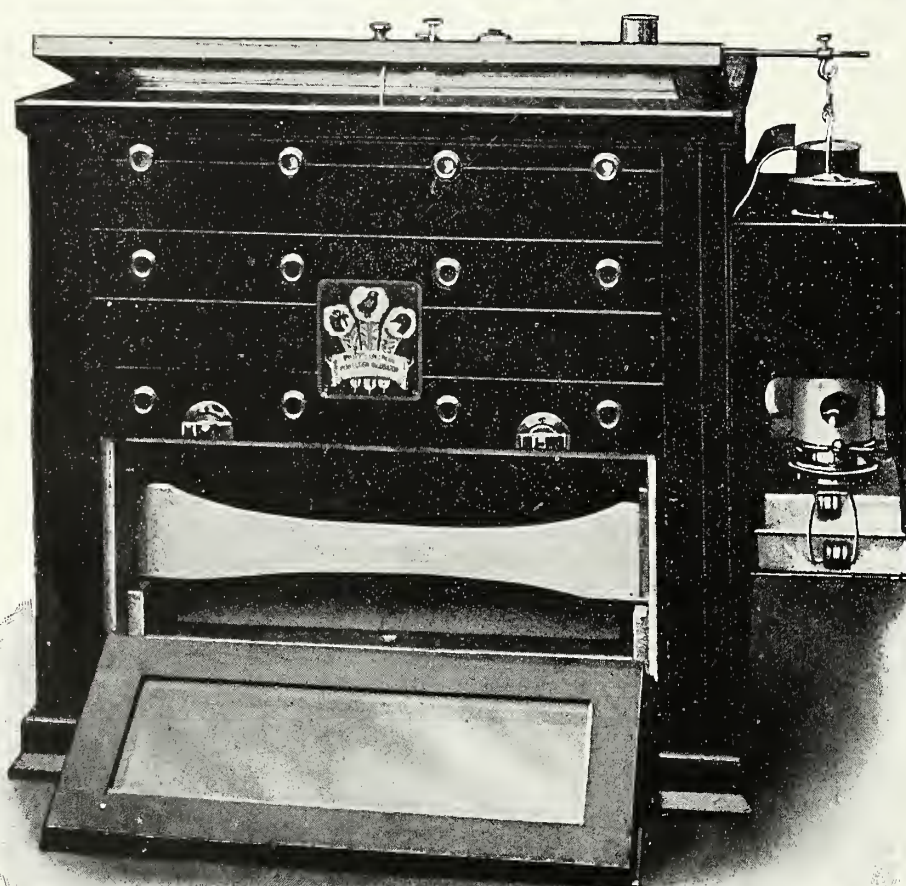
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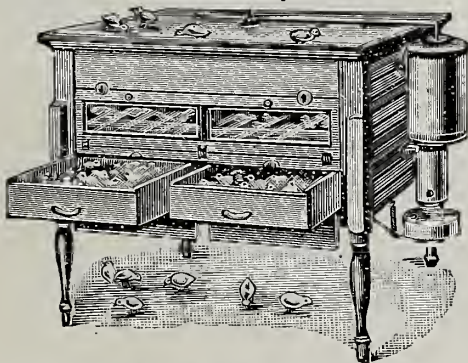
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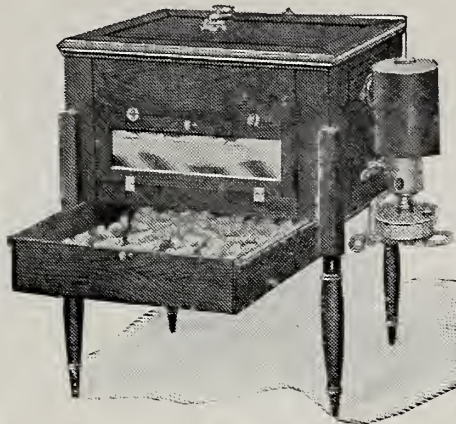
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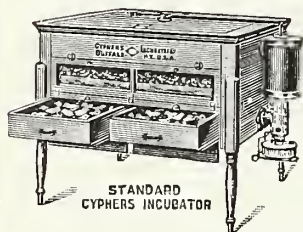
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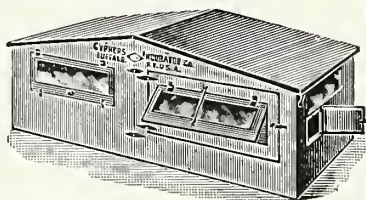


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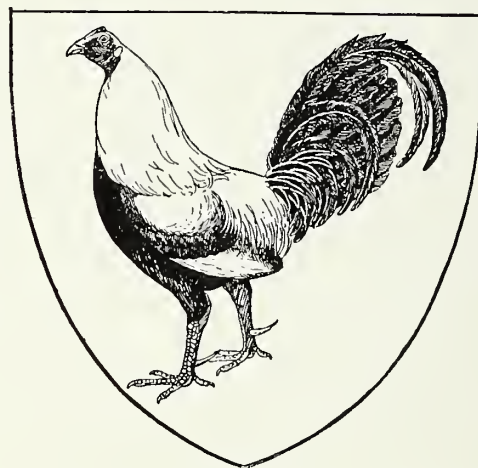
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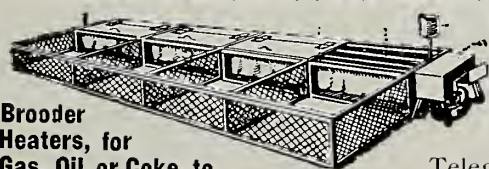
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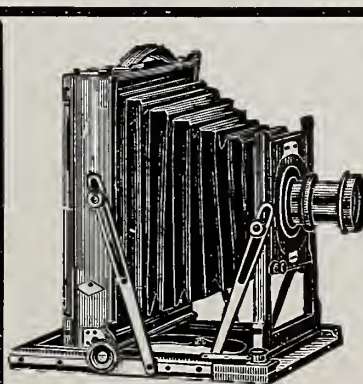
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The birds chiefly exhibited have been Black and Blue Leghorns; but, as will be noticed from list of wins, Reginald Melbourne always won with other varieties in "good company" when he put his birds down.

**BLACK LEGHORNS.—1902 Season.**—1st, Spl., Dairy; 3rd, Res., Palace; 1st, Caterham, &c.

**1903.**—1st, Dairy; 1st, Challenge Cup, Gold Medal, 4th, International and Leghorn Club Show, Sheffield; 1, 2, 3, Fareham; 2, 4, Cardiff; 3, Manchester; 1st, Spl., 2, 4, Dunstable; 3rd, 4, Club Show, Newbury; 2, Cheltenham; 1, 3, 4, Res., Lincoln; 1st, Cambridge; 2, 4, Wimborne; two 2nds, 3, 4, Watford; 1st, Bury St. Edmunds; two 1sts, Spl., two 2nds, 3, 4, Plymouth; 2, 3, Gloucester; 1, 2, Hereford; 1, 2, 3, Rugby; 1st, Hague.

**1904.**—1st, Spl., Brislington; 1st, Congleton; 1st, Escrick; 4, Dairy; 1st, Spl., 3, Spilsby; 1, 2, Hounslow; 1, 2, Fareham; 1, 3, Caterham; 2, Hadleigh; 2nd, International; 3rd, Palace; 3rd, Res., Birmingham; 3, 4, Morecambe; two 3rds, Walthamstow; 2, 3, Cheltenham; 2, 3, West London; 2, 3, Tonbridge; 2, 3, 4, L.P.R.A. Club Show, York; 1st, Spl., 2, 4, Bushey; 1st, Spl., Bromsgrove; 1, 2, Southgate; 1, Southall; 2, 3, Plymouth; 2, 4, Hugglescote; 3, Ulverston.

**1905.**—1st, Haywards Heath; 1st, Special, two 2nds, Horsham; 2nd, Royal Lancashire; 3rd, Prescott; 3rd, Darwen; 2nd, Oxted; 2nd, Cheltenham; 1st, Hounslow; 1st, Northampton; two 2nds, Caterham; 2nd, 3rd, Ealing; 1st, Special, Hadleigh; 4th, International; 2nd, Bristol; 3rd, Gloucester; 2nd, Black Leghorn Club Show, Morecambe; two 3rds, Aspatria; 1st, Special, two 2nds, Reigate; 1st, two 2nds, two 3rds, Tonbridge; 1st, Twickenham; 1st, Special, Southall; three 1sts, Special and Trophy, three 2nds, two 4ths, Edmonton; two 1sts, Special, 2nd, Tunbridge Wells; 3rd, 4th, Leghorn Club Show, Leeds; 3rd, South Metropolitan; 1st, Cambridge; 1st, Special, 2nd, Luton; 1st, Special, two 2nds, Thornton Heath, &c.

**1906.**—International Show, Crystal Palace—Poultry Club £30 Challenge Trophy for Best Hen in Show; Poultry Club £10 10s. Challenge Trophy for Best Leghorn; Poultry Club Silver Medal for Best Leghorn; Leghorn Club £10 10s. Challenge Cup for Best Black, also Reserve and other cards. Dairy Show—1st, Special, 2nd, 3rd, 4th. Twickenham—Poultry Club £10 10s. Challenge Cup for Best Hen in

Show; 1st, Special, 2nd, Bristol; 1st, 2nd, Caterham; 1st, Barnstaple; 4th, Manchester; 1st, Special, Kendal; 1st, Crewe; 1st, Redhill; two 1sts, Special and 2nd, York; 1st, Challenge Cup for Best Pullet, and 4th, L.P.R.A. and Black Leghorn Club Show, Norwich. (Only shows exhibited at.)

**1907.**—2nd, 3rd, Haywards Heath; 2nd, 3rd, Eynsford; 1st, Special, 2nd, 3rd, Southall; 1st, two Specials, 3rd, Bromley; 3rd, Manchester; 2nd, Norwich; 1st, 4th, Cheltenham; 2nd, 3rd, Hadleigh; 2nd, 3rd, Morecambe; 2nd, two 3rds, Gillingham; 1st, Challenge Cup, three Medals, International; 3rd, Guildford; 1st, Special, Southend; 2nd, Northampton; 1st, 2nd, Tonbridge; two 1sts, two Specials, Eastbourne; 2nd, Cardiff; 2nd, Burton-on-Trent; 1st, Special, 2nd, 4th, Dover; 1st, 3rd, York; 3rd, Pembroke; 3rd, Redhill; 3rd, 4th, Bristol; 3rd, three 4ths, Bolton; two 1sts, two Specials, Chesterfield.

**1908.**—3rd, 4th, Dairy; 1st, two Spls., Eastbourne; 1st, 3rd, Dover; 1st, Spl., Bromley; 1st, two Spls., Deal; 3rd, 4th, York; 2nd, 3rd, Black Leghorn Club Show, Ealing; 1st, 3rd, Redhill; 1st, 2nd, Grimsby; 1st, 2nd, Leghorn Club Show, Leeds; two 1sts, Erith; 1st, 3rd, Reigate.

**BLUE LEGHORNS.—1907.**—1st, 3rd, Leghorn Club Show, Bristol.

**1908.**—2nd, Lancaster; 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Res., Dairy; 3rd, Tunbridge Wells; 1st, Spl., 2nd, 3rd, 4th, Res., International; 1st, two 2nds, two 3rds, 4th, Tonbridge; two 1sts, two 2nds, 3rd, Ealing; two 1sts, Cup, three Spls., 2nd, 3rd, Res., Blue Leghorn Club Show, Leeds; 2nd Res., Reigate.

**BLACK WYANDOTTES.—1908.**—3rd, Haywards Heath; Reserve, Dairy; 2nd, Tunbridge Wells; 2nd, 3rd, Tonbridge; 1st, Special, Reigate; 3rd, Southend, &c.

**BLACK ORPINGTONS.—1907.**—1st, Challenge Cup, Reigate; 2nd, Gillingham, &c.

**1908.**—Two 3rds, Bromley; 1st Tunbridge Wells; two 1sts and two Specials, Reigate, &c.

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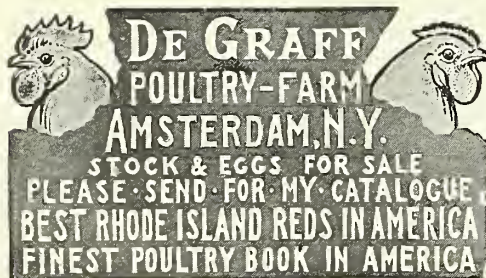
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